

Labour draws level with Tories



GUARDIAN MARPLAN INDEX

By Martin Linton

Labour has drawn level with the Conservatives for the first time since last August in the new Guardian-Marplan Index, which was taken two days after the end of the miners' strike.

The poll puts the Conservatives and Labour on 36 per cent, and the Alliance for the first time above its level of support in the last election at 27 per cent.

The figures seem to confirm the view that it is the coal dispute that has held Labour back for the past seven months and that, once released, the party would move back into the lead it enjoyed briefly in the spring and summer of 1984.

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Chancellor keeps drop to 1 pc and nods in 14 pc mortgages

Lawson restricts interest rate cut

By Peter Rodgers, Hamish McRae and Margaret Dibbon

Pressure for a bigger fall than 0.5 per cent in bank base rates was deliberately blocked by the Government yesterday. It made it clear that the new 13.5 per cent level was low enough for the moment, despite a strong performance by sterling on the foreign exchanges.

The Government has therefore rejected the idea of persuading the building societies to halt their planned rise in mortgage interest rates of 1 per cent which is to be announced later today, taking effect from April 1. The society

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Queues used to stem immigration

EXCLUSIVE

By David Rose

LONG QUEUES of people claiming a legal right to enter Britain from the Indian subcontinent are maintained deliberately to regulate numbers, according to a confidential Home Office briefing to ministers.

It says the number of Entry Clearance Officers dealing with the demand for entry was "the primary regulator."

If the Government acknowledged publicly what the document calls "a policy of deliberate delay without legislation giving powers to impose quotas" it would run the risk, the briefing says, of

legal action in British courts and under the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Home Office refused to comment last night, explaining that it was not prepared to say anything about what appeared to be an internal document.

The waiting time - now 22 months for those waiting to enter from Bangladesh, 11 months for those from Pakistan and 11 months for those from Delhi - has always been explained officially as the result of a lack of resources to deal with applicants, a position repeated before officials had been made aware of the confidential briefing.

The briefing was drawn up

in June, 1983, by the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Department. Headed by Mr David Waddington, it reviewed current immigration policy and future prospects, primarily for the benefit of the minister of state, Mr David Waddington.

In a section dealing with immigration for settlement, the document says: "In two significant areas a system of queues operates to regulate the flow of immigrants and in the Indian sub-continent (though not elsewhere) applicants have had to wait for up to two years for interviews."

The number of Entry Clearance Officers in practice is the primary regulator of the number of husbands, wives, and children, and

male fiancés admitted from the sub-continent in any one year. Provided the queues do not become too long this form of administrative regulation can continue."

Acknowledging that the delay system was, in fact, a quota mechanism would incur the risk of legal action.

Later, in a section examining possible changes in policy, the briefing says: "The practical operation of a more restrictive policy would probably involve operating a more obviously discriminatory queueing or quota system than that now operated in the sub-continent."

Reviewing the current immigration rules, the briefing concedes that the much-criticised provision allowing non-U passport holders indefi-

nite entry provided they have one British grandparent is "undeniably anomalous."

However, the document continues, a change in this rule would anger the Old Commonwealth lobby.

On the question of granting political asylum, the briefing again points to the difficulties of changing the rules: "There are various international obligations to be borne in mind... quite apart from the plain political awkwardness in sending away someone who faces persecution or death at home."

The only obvious way to secure a major reduction in the numbers of immigrants would be to change the rules for the admission of depen-

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Leaders consider one-day national stoppage after Easter

Union aims to halt 466 schools in next wave of teachers' strikes

By Penny Chorlton

A total of 466 schools in 52 education authorities face three-day selective strikes next week in an escalation of the teachers' pay dispute, it was announced yesterday. The disruption by the National Union of Teachers will include 18 previously unaffected areas.

Teachers are also likely to strike for one day in England, Scotland and Wales after Easter, said leaders of the largest Scottish teachers' union.

The third largest teachers' union, the 85,000-member Association of Masters and Mistresses, is understood to have voted overwhelmingly in a ballot against joining strikes. Its executive will consider other industrial action at the weekend.

About 8,500 NUT members will disrupt 466 schools next week in support of their £2,200-12.5 per cent across the-board claim. They have been offered 4 per cent. Nearly a million children have missed lessons because of the campaign.

After next week only 12 au-

thorities in England and Wales will remain unaffected by the NUT dispute, with 92 of the 104 authorities having had walk-outs by more than 30,000 teachers.

The second largest teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters / Union of Women Teachers, said yesterday that its selective lightning strikes would extend next week into six further areas, Barnet, London; Bury, Oxfordshire; Sefton; Suffolk, and Wigan.

Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland, representing 80 per cent of teachers, said that he would discuss the idea of a national teachers' strike with Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT.

They were in Brussels for a European education meeting yesterday.

Many teachers' leaders believe that a co-ordinated national strike may be the only way to put pressure on the Government to come up with more money.

The unions will meet Aca-

national strike. The employers went to Aca on Tuesday.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, and Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, have been urging the unions to return to negotiations. They want the question of teachers' pay to be settled under the Burnham Committee in England and Wales and by an independent review in Scotland.

Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary of the NUT, told teachers in Sefton, Yorkshire, yesterday that the Government, not the employers, stood in the way of an improvement on the 4 per cent offer.

"The employers cannot and do not challenge the facts behind our claim. The local authorities have been set up by the Government. They have been portrayed as those demanding changes in conditions of service and in salary structure. Recent events have shown that the Government is the real cause of the present dispute."

He urged education authorities to back the teachers and approach the Government with the unions.

About 18,000 teachers in Scotland and about 15,000 in England and Wales are on strike this week.

The Scottish TUC has been asked to instruct caretakers and other workers not to co-operate with proposals by Mr Younger to try to keep some schools open for examinations during the Easter holidays.

Parents' representatives appealed for an early end to the disruption. The National Council of Parent-Teacher Associations said it was sympathetic to the teachers but asked the unions to end the strikes.

"We see all three parties as being equally to blame for this situation," said a spokesman. "We did not get much joy from our meeting with Sir Keith Joseph and it would seem he is convinced appraisal linked to pay talks is the only way forward."

Lecturers in about 80 colleges in England and Wales have started a "no-cover" dispute and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education believes that most of its 75,000 members will be involved in the dispute by the end of the week.

Abolition of wages councils 'dangerous'

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

The TUC reacted angrily yesterday to the budget decision to remove unfair dismissal protection from workers with less than two years' service, and its proposals to abolish wages councils.

The TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, described the moves as "dangerous and wrongheaded." "They will give even greater licence to unscrupulous employers," he said.

Although the extension from one year to two years in the unfair dismissal protection will apply only to those changing jobs after the extension comes into effect, the TUC claims that "millions" of workers will be affected. The TUC employment policy and organisation committee is to communicate its "grave concern" at the decision to the Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King.

On the issue of wages councils, the Government claims that the minimum rates set for 2.7 million workers discourages employment. However, Mr Willis quoted recent research by the Department of Employment which found that "there can be no strong assumption that the retail wages councils have an important independent employment effect."

With basic rates at around £50 and £70 a week, the awards of the wages councils "can hardly be described as generous," he added. "There is no evidence, only prejudice, behind this move."

The employment policy committee yesterday approved plans for only a limited TUC involvement in the campaign to persuade union members to vote in favour of retaining political funds when they ballot on the issue over the coming months.

The campaign is largely in the hands of unions with political funds. The TUC's low profile does not, officials insist, indicate a lack of commitment to the cause. They argue that the main issue affiliation to the Labour Party - 47 of the 84 TUC unions are affiliated - but the capacity of unions to campaign on political issues.

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Sceptical politicians cast gloom over minister's effort in Ulster

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

Ulster politicians were dismissive yesterday of the Government's appointment of a low level minister to hold new talks with all political parties in an effort to loosen the deadlock.

The announcement that Mr Christopher Patten, an under secretary of state at the Northern Ireland Office, would hold discussions with the parties was greeted with scepticism. The parties were told that the Government might ask an intermediary to help all groups clarify their positions. Mr Patten is familiar with the Northern Ireland situation and the individual parties involved. By employing a lower-ranking minister, the Government believes that the talks can be kept at a low profile and expectations held down.

The parties were dubious about the value of the move. Mr Peter Rodin, deputy leader of the DUP, claimed it was merely an example of the Government trying to prop up the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

Mr Frank Millar, general secretary of the Official Unionist Party, described it as a bit of nonsense designed to give



Chris Patten — keeping low profile

the impression of movement when there was none. The real negotiations would have to be between the parties, the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister.

Mr John Hume, leader of the SDLP, has said his party would cooperate, but the general question was whether unionist attitudes had changed.

Mr John Cusack, of the Alliance, welcomed the move but said the crucial element was policy not personality. The Government had a duty to make its policy clear.

Mr Hume wants to reach some sort of accommodation with the Republic whereby it has a definite, although non-executive, input into the affairs of the North. Internally, he wants to get the Unionists to agree that the minority community has to be accommodated.

Hopes of meetings between the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party and the two largest unionist parties, the Democratic Unionists and the Official Unionists, evaporated when Mr Hume, met representatives of the IRA earlier this year.

There have been doubts though whether these talks would have achieved much. Mr Hume has said on several occasions that he is not a problem. The problem is getting agreement with the unionists.

Yesterday, Mr Patten, aged 40, who has charge of environment, health and social services in the province, repeated Mr Hume's attitude that he was not a problem. The status quo was not good enough and a way forward has to be found.

His job will be to investigate and report back — probably by some time in May — and then Mr Hume is likely to move into the lead once again.

Another informer retracts Ulster terrorist statement

Another Northern Ireland police informer has withdrawn statements implicating people in terrorist offences, it emerged yesterday, writes Paul Johnson.

Eamon Collins, a 30-year-old former Customs official from Newry, has signed an affidavit repudiating statements in which he named 12 men in connection with 20 terrorist offences, including six murders. He faces two murder charges and an accusation that he belonged to the IRA.

Collins was among a number of people questioned by police after this month's IRA mortar-bomb attack on Newry police station which claimed the lives of nine officers, including two women. His statements were not connected with the Newry incident.

One of those implicated by Collins was given bail yesterday. He appeared before the High Court in Belfast. John Hollywood, 41, of Newry, who is accused of IRA membership, was told that the Crown would not resist bail in the light of recent developments.

Last week the Ulster Volunteer Force informer, John Gibbons, was also said to have sworn an affidavit withdrawing evidence against 40 people. Withdrawal of statements has not necessarily meant freedom for the accused. Some have remained in custody because they have been named by a succession of informers.

Five trials have ended with informers' evidence being thrown out after a judge decided it was unsatisfactory.

The Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights said last month that immunity should be granted sparingly to accomplices. They should not be offered large sums of money for resettlement after the trial, the commission said.

In the light of recent developments, the commission went on trial in the city yesterday on the evidence of the UVF informer, William "Dudgie" Allen.

They face a total of 107 charges including murder, attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, and possession of arms and explosives. Nineteen are accused of membership of the illegal UVF, a Protestant paramilitary group.

Climax for boycott action

By Seamus Milne

The Anti-Apartheid Movement's month of campaigning to step up the boycott of South Africa reaches its climax today—the 28th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre.

A rally tonight at Central Hall, Westminster, will be addressed by Bishop Trevor Huddleston and a torchlight procession is planned in Glasgow.

Fifty members of the Anglican United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel are due to arrive in Trafalgar Square after a five-day march from Benley.

Every night on the way they have set up squatter camps which have been bulldozed by supporters in the morning, to symbolise events in South Africa.

The Next chain of clothes stores has stopped stocking South African imports as a result of this pressure and certain women applicants were rejected.

The feeling runs so deep that the complainants may approach the EOC for assistance in preparing their case against it. Mr Hart succeeds Miss Marion Sinoel, aged 60, a lawyer.

One lower level member of staff at the EOC headquarters in Manchester said that concern about the handling of the appointment started long ago. It was well known that

the successful applicant was likely to be a man.

"The feeling among staff was that it was not a big surprise. We would have been very pleasantly surprised if a woman had been appointed," she said.

The executive recruitment consultants, John Courts and Partners, were appointed by the EOC to scrutinise more than 100 initial applications.

They prepared two shortlists, the first containing 20 names, and the second eight. The final decision was taken by EOC chairwoman Baroness Platt and an

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ballots 'reject strike'

CIVIL service unions are likely to reject plans for industrial action next month on the basis of early returns from two of the four unions which are consulting their members this week, writes John Ardill.

A seven to three majority against action has been recorded among the first 2,000 members voting in the smallest of the four, the 47,000-strong Civil Service Union.

First votes from the largest, the Civil and Public Services Association show a majority in favour of action but this is regarded as an unrepresentative result from militant branches.

The Inland Revenue Staff Association is thought to be most likely of the four to vote in favour. The Society of Civil and Public Servants is closely guarding its initial returns.

The voting is on plans for a one day strike on April 1 followed by a month of selective action, possibly leading to an all-out strike. The government has offered a pay increase of 4 per cent up to a maximum of 5.

Police raid animal rights group

DETECTIVES raided the offices of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection in London yesterday in a search for some of the documents used in the recent trial at which the Royal College of Surgeons was successfully prosecuted for cruelty.

The Metropolitan Police detectives raided the home of the BUAV's scientific officer, Philip Churchward, before searching the group's offices.

A substantial number of documents was removed, including lists of names of contacts and supporters.

Helicopter fault 'was known'

A HELICOPTER fault which led to a crash in which 10 oilmen were seriously injured had been identified by the RAF, but civil air safety authorities had not been told, the Department of Transport's accident investigation branch said yesterday.

RAF helicopters had been modified, but the warning was not passed on. The official report into the crash of the Tiger helicopter at Aberdeen airport in 1983 criticises the system of reporting air safety information.

Head's son on drugs charge

THE son of Mr Roger Tibbory, joint headmaster of Dartington Hall School, Devon, was charged yesterday with possessing cocaine, amphetamines and cannabis, police said.

Andrew Tibbory, aged 19, of Park Road, Dartington, also faces a charge of attempted rape. He was released on police bail to appear at Totnes Magistrates' Court on April 2.

Police protection for councillor

A LEADING West Yorkshire politician has been given police protection after a murder threat and continued vandalism at his home.

Mr Royston Moore, chairman of Bradford district health authority and leader of the council, was threatened by a group of West Yorkshire County Council members for more than a year. It began after the health authority proposed the closure of Bradford's Thornton View hospital which was closed last month.

Four found dead near hostel

FOUR men were found dead early yesterday near a hostel for the homeless in the Govan area of Glasgow.

Police were studying a theory that they died after drinking in a nearby derelict building. A police spokesman said: "It is believed there are no suspicious circumstances."

Jazz lament for Lord Harlech

A JAZZ band played in Westminster Abbey yesterday as the late Lord Harlech was remembered with a traditional New Orleans lament at a memorial service.

More than 1,900 people, including Princess Margaret, attended the service for Lord Harlech, 66, a jazz fan, who was killed in a car crash last month.



The Cancer Research Campaign started a 1,975-mile expedition along inland waterways yesterday to publicise its work and raise funds. James Raine (centre) and Chris Barrow will navigate the narrow boat Water Willow, loaned by the British Waterways Board, with the help of 100 young people during the five-month trip.

Picture by Garry Weaser

Print union's assets threatened in dispute

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Star

An application for the sequestration of the assets of the NGA print union will be made in Birmingham High Court today by a subsidiary of the Wolverhampton Express and Star.

Precision Colour Printing of Halesfield claims that the National Graphical Association is in contempt of an injunction granted on March 1 ordering the union to withdraw instructions to its members to black the customers and suppliers of the PCP. The instructions were found to be in breach of the Employment Act 1980.

More than 100 NGA members at the Express and Star have been locked out by management in a dispute over new technology. The NGA is refusing to accept the terms for the introduction of single key boarding in the classified ad department which would bypass the functions of NGA compositors.

Designed to end the dispute collapsed last week. Management claims that the NGA was seeking sole negotiating rights in the advertising department, and that this would breach an agreement with the general print union to represent telead staff.

Mr Tony Dubbins, the general secretary of the NGA, said yesterday: "Management has totally misrepresented the situation. We are more than

happy to sit down with Sogat and discuss an agreement covering that area. Sogat is quite happy with that. There are no competing claims between our two unions. We do not want exclusive rights."

The Express and Star managing director Mr Mark Kersen yesterday reacted angrily to the news that the National Union of Journalists has decided to withdraw from an agreement allowing direct input by NUJ members which was endorsed by the Express and Star NUJ chapel last week.

The NUJ executive formally suspended the agreement yesterday pending further talks with the NGA over their competing claims to particular jobs at newspapers using new technology. The Express and Star intended to start direct input by some journalists in the features department today.

The two unions agreed to try to find a common approach to new technology following talks at the TUC this week. Mr Harry Urwin, the former deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, has been appointed independent chairman.

In return for the NUJ's suspension of its agreement at the Express and Star, the NGA has deferred a parallel deal at the Portsmouth News which would have given the NGA negotiating rights for some editorial matters.

'Political Whitehall' call

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Key senior Civil Service posts should be filled by officials selected for their political views, as happens elsewhere in the public sector, the Royal Institute of Public Administration was told last night.

Professor Fred Ridley, professor of political theory and institutions at Liverpool University, said that a more open expression of political views by civil servants would bring more effective government.

In the third lecture of the Institute's series on politics, ethics and public service, Professor Ridley suggested that the Government's insistence on civil servants' commitment to carry on its policies whether or not they agreed with them could produce amoral apparitions.

He said: "The Civil Service should not, as a whole, be told that its loyalty is to the ministers of the day. It should be a service to the State... based on its professional expertise, non-partisan concepts of the national interest and a much stronger anchor in administrative law."

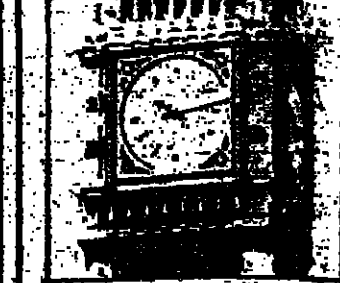
Indeed, by allowing civil servants to engage in political activities, ministers would be able to identify those with whom they could most effectively work, and the quality of informed public debate on policy issues would rise.

Professor Ridley said it was morally bankrupt to suggest, as Mr Justice McCowan ruled in the Ponting case, that the State's interest was synonymous with the policies of the government of the day.

The faction intends to take the EOC to a sex discrimination tribunal initially on the grounds that some women were excluded from the shortlists to assist the appointment of a man. The case could then go to the High Court.

They claim that the EOC's failure is under review by the Government. The embarrassment of a case like this could hasten its disappearance.

Mr Hart, who takes up the job which pays between £26,000 and £32,000 on July 1, is a solicitor.



David McKie

The thud of the genteel boot

THE trouble with the Tory dissidents, people at Westminster keep saying, is that they lack decisive leadership. They never there, and even when there, there's too much of a smug, of a did-personal scores being settled to make him the authoritative objective source of Thatcherite economics the rebels really need.

Jim Prior is busy in the City—and anyway, he said when he left the Government that he wouldn't be rocking the boat. Ian Gilmour is too long and too nice. And Francis Pym has neither the stamina nor the reliable economic grasp needed to give this ungainly crew a sense of direction.

The short sharp shock which Mr Pym administered to the Government's system in yesterday's budget system

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won't change that verdict overnight. But, in the intensity of its contempt, it put down a formidable marker for times to come.

If it sounded good yesterday—and it did—it will sound even better in six months' time, or a year, if the Chancellor's Budget for Jobs '86 shows a few signs of delivering us his Budget for Jobs in '84.

There's something about Mr Pym's formal, old-fashioned courtesy that makes the insults, when they come, sting even more. Mr Lawson wasn't yesterday—but he'll be there to hear them told.

The Chancellor said Mr Pym was "imprisoned in a straitjacket of his own construction. Of course, it is the straitjacket which he wriggled about inside it; but the real question was how he'd come to be trapped up in the thing in the first place.

The Government boasted increased growth, efficiency, productivity but we were still not back to the output levels of 1979 (the year he hardly needed to remind us, when the Lady took over). Our productivity had grown less than most other people's. And we were still less rather than more, competitive than we used to be.

Were we really any nearer the answers to our old economic problems than we had been six years ago? Mr Pym passed for a second, as if determined that the balance should be struck with utter justice.

"Not much," he adjudged, "except for inflation." Surely, then, it must be time to look for new strategies rather than the rehashing of old solutions which didn't come up with the goods?

Earlier, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Peter Rees, tipped by some as a likely casualty in the next reshuffle, did his cause little good by getting involved in a bizarre dispute about what Roy Hattersley had once said (or to be more accurate, hadn't said) about buying back council houses sold to their tenants.

Perhaps Mr Rees could take a lesson or two in unapproachability under fire from his colleague in the Lords, Lord Elton who in a debate on an Alliance motion on the Official Secrets Act neatly tackled the question of defeat by readily accepting the motion.

Since this called for the repeal of Section 2 and its replacement by legislation creating a general right of public access to official information, that might sound like a good idea. Not in the mouth of Lord Elton it wasn't.

Certainly the minister, like everyone else in this debate, had few kind words for Section 2. The Government longed to replace it: the problem was, with what? Its previous honourable efforts had founded in this very House of Lords.

As for freedom of information, he urgently implored the House to appreciate how much this Government had done already. It had opened up the prisons to outside scrutiny as never before. It had let TV cameras penetrate Strangeways. More: it had even allowed senior civil servants to be interviewed on the radio by Mr Hugo Young.

How after that — Lord Elton seemed to be saying — could its noble critics go on carping so? But they did.

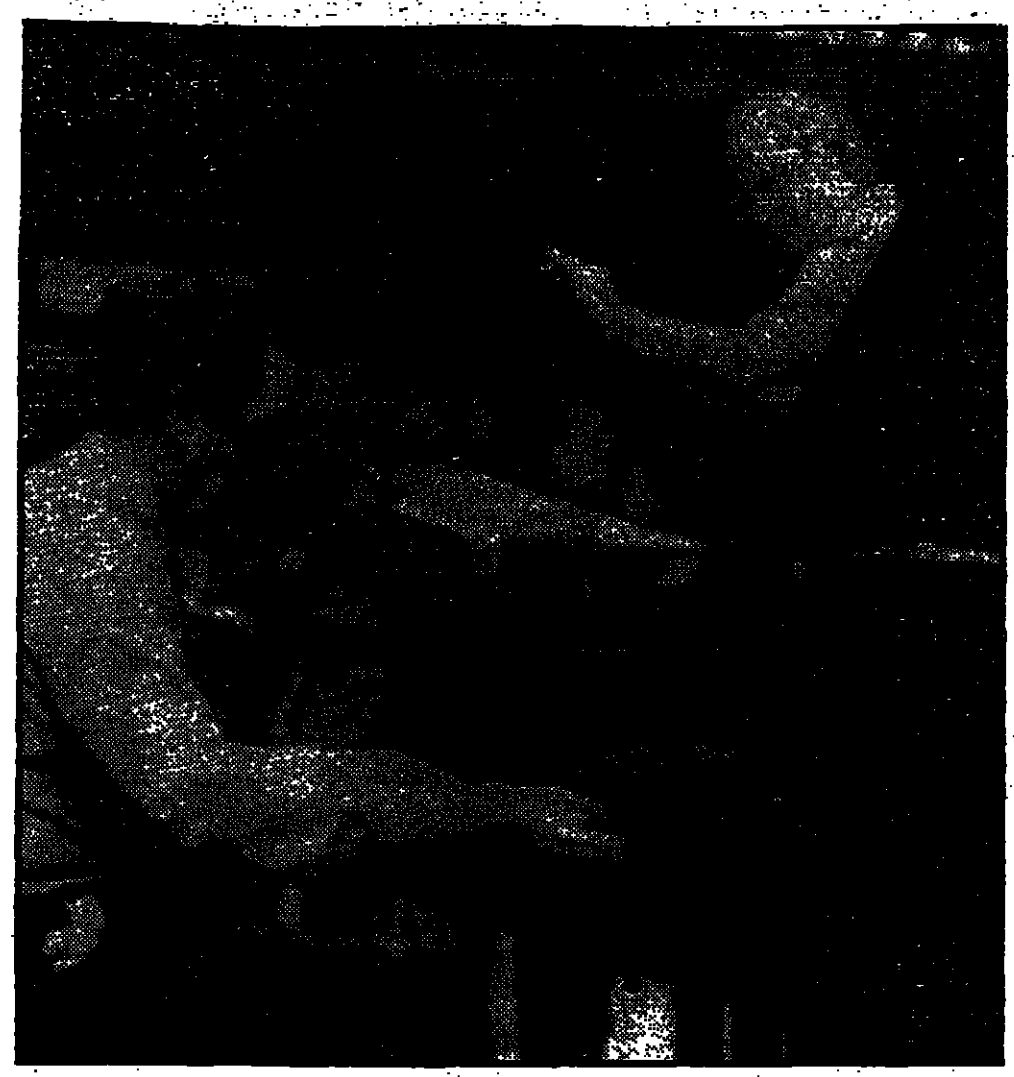
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Moscow allows Gavrilov to stay

By Gareth Parry
ANDREI Gavrilov, the brilliant young Russian pianist who has asked to stay in Britain, yesterday had his request granted by the Home Secretary, and also received unprecedented Soviet blessing.
The decision from Moscow came two weeks after Mr Gavrilov and his wife Natalia applied to stay on at the end of a concert tour of Britain.
Their application was recognised by the Russians as a possible prelude to an eventual defection to the West, which would have dealt a serious blow to the Soviet art world which has been steadily depleted by a long line of defections, from Radolf Nureyev on.
Mr Gavrilov, winner of the prestigious Tchaikovsky Prize in 1974, has a world-wide reputation at the age of 29.
News of his application to stay in Britain shocked the Moscow art authorities, who have reacted sharply by offering the Gavrilovs their own permission to stay in the West, thus enabling them



Andrei Gavrilov: request granted by Home Secretary

Bar sought on pit strikers standing for union posts

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff
Working miners are seeking a court order banning Nottinghamshire pitmen who backed the strike from standing for any area union or branch office.
Lawyers acting for Mr John Lipitrot, branch secretary at Sherwood Colliery and leading member of the National Working Miners Committee, issued the writ on Tuesday.
The order is being sought on the basis that strikers did not pay subscriptions. Under the union's rules, any member who has not paid his subscription for eight weeks becomes "unfinancial". After a further 13 weeks, he ceases to be a member of the union and may only be readmitted on the area council's instruction.
The area council has ruled that the strikers may be readmitted once they have repaid 50p per week arrears for every week they were on strike after the first eight weeks.
But Mr Lipitrot contends that under the area's rules no readmitted member can be nominated for any union office until 13 weeks after readmission.
This would ensure that opponents of the strike retain control of the area council for a further year. Area council elections must be completed by June 29.
The Kent area union yesterday agreed to defer seeking a ruling that miners dismissed by the NCB may nevertheless

A NOTE FROM OUR SPONSOR: Sir Trevor Holdsworth, chairman of GKN, in rehearsal for last night's charity concert at the Royal Festival Hall when he played Grieg's piano concerto with the Royal Philharmonic. Picture by Frank Martin

Violence 'caused sackings'

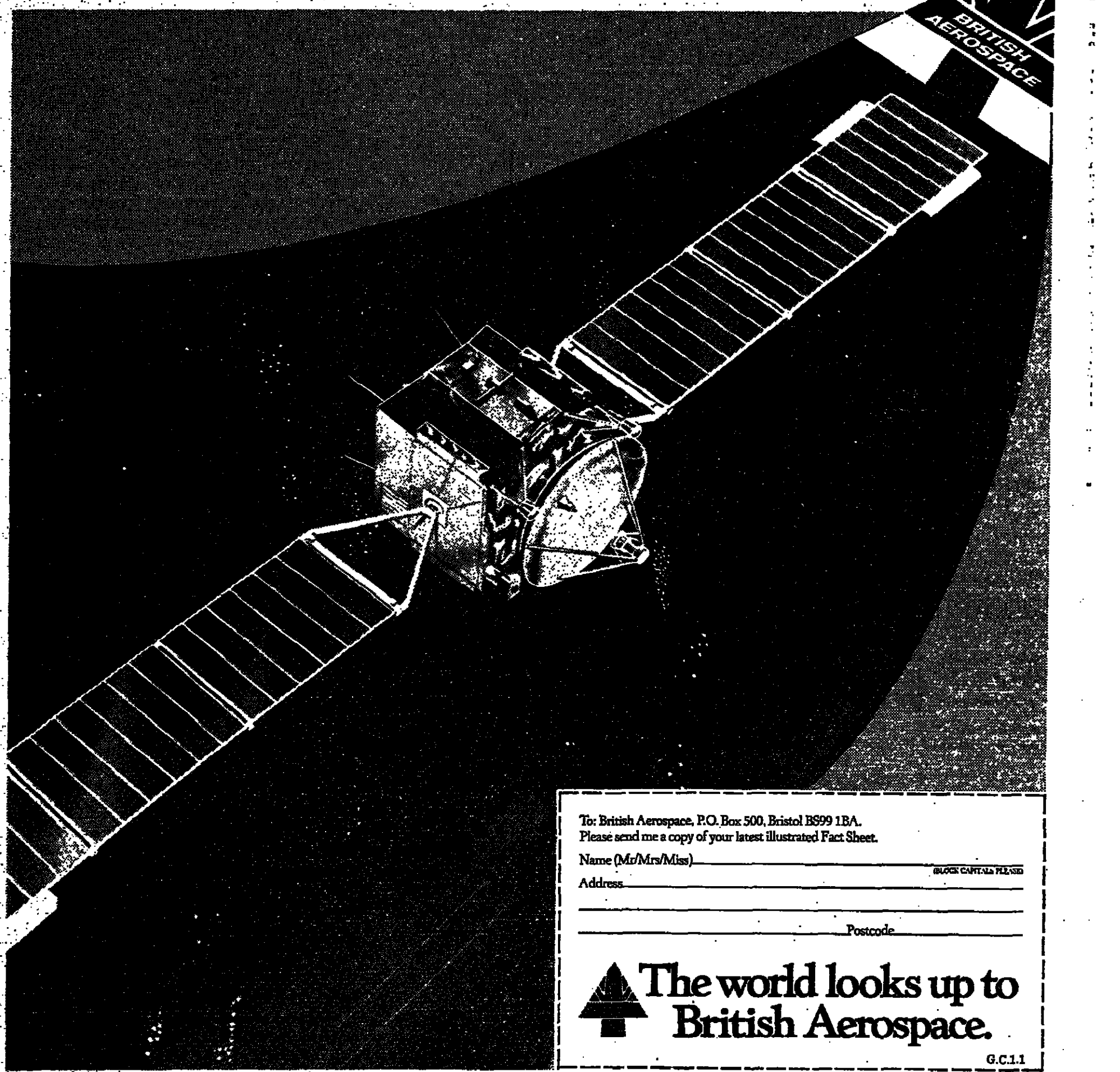
Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, said yesterday that the high number of Scottish miners dismissed during the strike was due to the "terrible scenes of violence and intimidation in the area", writes Patrick Wintour.
He told a delegation of Scottish MPs that he backed his area director, Mr Albert Wheeler to the hilt. "No man has been dismissed for a minor offence. The dismissals follow 1,500 arrests and more than 1,000 prosecutions."
However, Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East, said after the 90-minute meeting that Scottish miners had been involved in 10 per cent of the convictions caused by the dispute but faced a third of the 820 dismissals. A Scottish National Union of Mineworkers study showed that 90 per cent had been arrested for minor public order offences.
"People have been fined £50 by the courts for a breach of the peace and have lost £30,000 redundancy pay as a result," said Mr Brown. "The board say they can act as judge and jury and dismiss people before their case has come to court. We have two laws in Scotland — coal board law and the criminal law."
Mr Donald Dwyer, Labour MP for Glasgow Garscadden, said the NCB conceded that an attempt to impose a uniform dismissal policy on all areas had failed. The board had refused to give assurances that miners would be reinstated if industrial tribunals and the £30,000 redundancy pay as a

Minibus brakes 'may be hazard'

By Rosemary Collins
The Toyota Space Cruiser, an eight-seater minibus, has potentially dangerous brakes, tests by the Consumers' Association showed yesterday.
"Under heavy braking the front of the cars nosedived, the back wheels locked and sometimes left the ground," said the testers. "Braking from 30mph, the cars could slow unpredictably and from 60mph they were very unstable and could end up broadside-on to the original direction of travel."
A Toyota spokesman said that the company was disappointed that the Consumers' Association had made public comments without waiting for the results of an investigation by six of the firm's engineers, who have come from Japan to look into the allegations.
"We have had no complaints from the 2,200 buyers in Britain, and no reports from any source of any accident attributable to the Space Cruiser's braking system," said the spokesman.
"The experience of our customers must be taken just as seriously as the tests of the Consumers' Association. A vehicle of this kind will handle differently from a sports car or a saloon."
Toyota had issued no instructions to dealers on how to handle queries. "We will not be pushed into panic action, recalling these cars to the factory, for instance, unless our own engineers suggest that there is any reason to do so."
The Consumers' Association tested four Space Cruisers. When driven along the test track with "cones simulating the width of a motorway lane" it was difficult and sometimes impossible to keep within these confines while braking heavily," it reported.
The minibus described by Toyota as "an aerodynamic 2 litre people carrier with velour seats, thick carpets and moon windows" costs £8,995 and has been on sale in Britain for two years.
Dr Bill Roberts, Deputy Director of the Consumers' Association, advised Space Cruiser owners to "drive with the greatest care until the outcome of Toyota's investigation is known. In particular, keep your speed down and keep plenty of distance between your and the vehicle in front."

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Lost jobs force drift from north

By James Lewis
The five north-west counties — Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire, Lancashire and Cumbria — have suffered Britain's population loss in the past 15 years.
A total of 175,000 people left the region in the 10 years to 1981 and another 110,000 will leave by 1987, according to a report published yesterday.
Few, if any, European regions can have suffered such a numerical or proportional loss, most of which was due to the decline in manufacturing industry, it says.
The report, called the North-West — Profile of an English Region, has been compiled by the planning officers of the five counties, who say that the region lost 536,000 jobs in the 7 years to 1983. Four out of five were in manufacturing industry which shed 36 per cent of its workforce.
The authors say the region, already one of Europe's unemployment blackspots, would have had even longer dole queues if so many people had not left. They hope these findings will strengthen the case for more government and EEC help towards industrial regeneration.
Throughout the 1970s, they say, private manufacturing investment in the north-west was among the lowest. "For an area with such a high stake in manufacturing industry, this augurs very badly for the future."

Teachers face CND badge bar

By John Fairhall, Education Editor
The proposal by a Devon education authority sub-committee that teachers should not wear CND badges in school or have CND stickers on their cars was yesterday attacked by the county's National Union of Teachers branch, it described the proposal as a preposterous and ill-considered decision and said it was consulting its solicitor.
The badge-banning proposal was put forward by Conservative members of the county's schools sub-committee. They argued that teachers should not go into schools with badges or stickers of any one political party. As membership of CND could be interpreted in a party-political terms, CND badges and stickers should also be barred.
The sub-committee divided 8-5, with Conservatives supporting the proposal and Liberal, Labour, Independent, teachers, university, and church members opposed; but the motion was carried on the casting vote of the chairman.
A Devon NUT spokesperson said a ban would be more likely to incite teachers to display CND material than to prevent them. "People are entitled to their views on what is a bipartisan issue," he said.
The sub-committee's recommendation has to be confirmed by the full education committee on April 9.

Fire chief suspended after internal audit

By Tom Sharratt
The chief fire officer of Derbyshire, Mr Trevor Stevin, was suspended from duty yesterday after an internal audit by the county council. The police have been called in.
A council statement said he had been suspended on full pay by the council's director and treasurer, Mr Eric Cobb, as a "neutral act on legal advice."
The statement said: "Internal audit investigations have revealed certain matters which have been referred to the police for further investigation. The Home Office has been in-

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Plan encourages private care, says SDP paper

Rent-a-GP idea would value vouchers at £18.50

By Andrew Velich, Medical Correspondent

Patients would be issued with vouchers worth £18.50 a year for health care and £23 for drugs under the plan to transform the family doctor service which is being evaluated in the Health Department. People on supplementary benefit and those with long-term illnesses would be entitled to apply for extra vouchers, it is understood. Those who could afford it would top up their vouchers through private insurance schemes. Patients would take the vouchers to the National Health Service or private GP of their choice and in return the doctor would contract to provide comprehensive health care.

The Guardian disclosed earlier this week the scheme means GPs in group practices would transform themselves into United States-style health maintenance organisations (HMOs) providing primary care and buying hospital care from the state or private sector, whichever offered the best terms.

A senior civil servant in the department's family doctor division was ordered to draw up a version of the voucher-HMO system after a fact-finding trip to the States by the health minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, and his chief medical officer, Dr Donald Acheson. The aim was to include it in the green paper on family doctor services.

The value of the health care voucher proposed in the United Kingdom plan is based on the cost per person of primary health care in Britain in 1983-4 but it represents only a fraction of the cost of treating a patient.

It is proposed that doctors would also receive increased basic practice allowances from the government and a disguised merit award in the shape of a "good practice" allowance for providing extra services such as minor surgery.

The merit award would encourage doctors to set up HMOs. The most successful of these in the States have recruited surgeons to cut hospital bills.

Vouchers would replace the capitation fee, under which doctors receive an age-grated payment per patient ranging from a basic £5.65 to £9 for over-75s. The fee would be dispensed by the patient rather than the Government, so doctors would have to compete for custom.

Dr John Oldham, a member of the Social Democratic Party health policy group, is tracking the Government's attempts to control family doctor expenditure. He sees the voucher scheme as a way of encouraging private primary care organisations on the lines of the Harrow Health Care Centre, north London.

The green paper would seek to encourage competition and private enterprise in the family doctor service as part of the strategy of cost control, he says.

The British Medical Association will oppose the voucher scheme, but Dr Oldham believes that ministers, encouraged by the BMA's defeat on the limited drugs list, are prepared to take on the doctors.

"The Government has clearly decided the time is ripe for an assault on this particular bastion 'a la NUM' and will commence with the imminent pay review," he writes in a background paper prepared for Lord Kilmerick, the SDP's health spokesman in the Lords.

Lord Kilmerick will challenge the Government to come clean on the voucher plan in a Lords question next month.



Prince Charles inspects the World War Two bomb which was recently defused in Sheffield during a visit to the Royal Engineers at Chatham yesterday. He is flanked by Maj Alasdair Craib, (left), who led the team which defused the bomb, and Lt Col Chris Bates, commanding officer of 33 Engineer Regiment. Picture by E. Hamilton West

OU film unit seeks new work

By Dennis Barker

The BBC Open University production centre is to look to outside bodies for new work because of a £1 million reduction in its budget forced by government cuts.

The centre at Milton Keynes, which has a £10 million budget this year will have to cut 50 of its 250 programmes, it was announced yesterday.

It is seeking co-production or other deals with private industry and government departments in a move towards more films on high technology and education for commerce. The centre has released five programmes on starting businesses, and another series on computers. Programmes on robotics will also be made.

Programmes on quality control are being made for the Department of Trade and Industry.

Steelworkers to hold secret vote on fight against closure of mills

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

More than 200 steelworkers at Monks Hall, Warrington, will vote today in a secret ballot on whether to continue their three-month fight against closure.

On Tuesday the workers voted not to discuss redundancy terms, but backed a secret ballot.

The British Steel Corporation announced in November that it would close its mills at Monks Hall and Jarrow in Tyne and Wear, at the end of this year and cut 500 jobs but also reopen a mill at Scunthorpe in conjunction with Carpark Industries, a fast-growing group founded by Mr Sward Paul.

The new mill, adjacent to BSC's Scunthorpe works, will be run by a new company United Merchant Bar, 75 per cent owned by Caparo and 25 per cent by BSC.

UMB will act as a selling

agent this year for the two existing mills products, which are mainly used by the engineering industry.

Monks Hall union leaders are proposing an overtime ban next month in an attempt to force BSC and Caparo to keep Monks Hall open as a jobbing mill.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation has opposed the privatisation in principle. Mr Keith Jones, the steel union's senior North-west organiser, claims: "Caparo is being given two order books, a BSC mill at Scunthorpe, the opportunity to sell our products for a year and £1 million. Their cold logic is to close two mills and two communities in order to provide an order book for a private company."

The Monks Hall workforce is arguing that one of the two Warrington mills — the number 5 mill — should stay open with 100 manual staff.

The union has proposed a business plan, including a man-

ning cut to bring operating costs down to £15 per tonne, which envisages Monks Hall producing 40,000 tonnes a year with a £400,000 profit.

The union claims that an internal BSC report found 45 per cent of number 5 mill's products held a UK monopoly, and the new Scunthorpe works would thus allow greater import penetration.

ISTC works chairman Mr George Hill insists: "Over 1,000 jobs are dependent on this mill, but Mr Paul, having been sympathetic to us, is now saying that due to EEC quotas restricting production levels in Britain, the can no longer see any point in having any further meetings with us."

BSC management has told the union: "The average operating cost per tonne of the existing mills is in excess of £57 as against a figure of £42 for the new mill at Scunthorpe. In 1983/84 the losses at Jarrow and Monks Hall was £1.7 million."

Life gaol for murder gang driver

By a Correspondent

A man who drove convicted killer Dominic McGlinchey on a murder mission was jailed for life by Belfast Crown Court yesterday.

James McKelvie, aged 35, of Toomebridge, County Antrim, had denied involvement in the murder of PC Colin Carson in May 1983.

Matthew Devlin, aged 35, from Coagh, County Londonderry, who rowed McGlinchey and the gang to safety across Loch Neagh, was jailed for 10 years.

PC Carson was gunned down at a security barrier outside Crookstown RUC station in County Londonderry when he went to investigate a red Toyota van being driven by McGlinchey.

Lord Justice Kelly said the ferocity of the attack was borne out by the fact that at least 43 bullets had been fired by four armed men.

McKelvie was given a concurrent sentence of 18 years for the attempted murder of a second policeman.

The judge said Devlin's decision to plead guilty to possessing the murder weapons had been "well advised."

However, he was disappointed that a rigorous seven-year gaol term for attempted murder had not deterred Devlin from becoming involved in terrorism again.

Devlin nearly died during the 1981 Republican hunger strike but was saved when doctors intervened on permission of his mother and brother after he slipped into unconsciousness on the 52nd day of his fast.

Drug costs peer's son £200 fine

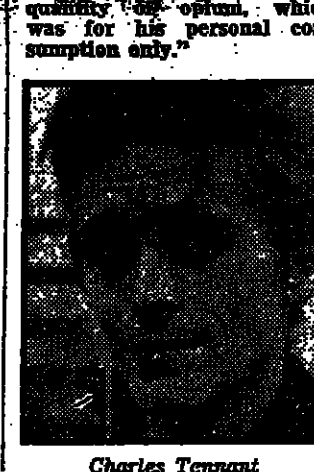
By a Correspondent

CHARLES Tennant, son of Lord Glenconner, was fined £200 yesterday for trying to smuggle opium into Britain.

He pleaded guilty at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, West London, to the charge involving 7.4 grammes of the drug with a street value of £27.

Tennant, aged 28, said afterwards that he was addicted to heroin but planned to enter hospital and then work on a cattle farm in Africa in an attempt to cure himself. His mother is a lady in waiting to Princess Margaret.

Mr John Blackburn Gittings, the magistrate, told the magistrates: "He is another casualty of the drug cancer which affects this country. It is a small quantity of opium, which was for his personal consumption only."



Charles Tennant

Tactical stance delays human rights reform

From Malcolm Dean, In Vienna

Plans to speed up applications to the European Commission of Human Rights are being held up by Cyprus, Malta and Turkey because of quarrels over other issues.

Eighteen of the 21 members of the Council of Europe have signed the new protocol which will allow the commission to change its procedures.

It was opened for signatures in Vienna on Tuesday at the start of the first ministerial meeting on human rights since the European Convention on Human Rights was drafted 35 years ago.

The proposals in protocol 8 are not radical but they would allow the 21-member commission to set up two chambers to hear applications on issues where there is already case law.

At present, all 21 commissioners — one from each state in the Council of Europe — have to sit as a single chamber. The protocol would also allow the commission to establish three committees to speed up the rejection of inadmissible applications.

No changes can be made until all 21 states have signed and ratified the protocol. All are expected to comply ultimately but this is expected to take at least two years. Turkey, Cyprus and Malta are expected to use the delay to bargain with the commission about domestic problems.

The Turks, who have indicated that they will sign, have been visited by teams from the European Commission and the European Parliamentary Assembly.

The two bodies have issued a predictable declaration on human rights in the world and passed three resolutions reaffirming the commitment to human rights.

col provides an obvious bargaining chip.

The motives behind the delay by the Cypriots are less clear but the biggest doubts rest on Malta, which has been boycotting the institutions of the Council of Europe since legislative moves to restrict the freedom of speech in the parliamentary assembly.

However, Malta had a representative at this conference. The two ministers leading the 10-member British delegation, Sir Patrick Mayhew and Mr Timothy Renton, took comfort yesterday from the fact that criticism of reforms, prepared by the Swiss and Austrian governments, was not restricted to the British.

The Dutch and Swedish representatives criticised a Swiss proposal for a merger of the European Court with the European Commission. The Swiss did not suggest in their report who would carry out the consultation role which is at present played by the commission.

The biggest disappointment for human rights organisations like Amnesty International, Justice and Interights, will be the failure of the conference to look at their proposals which were more radical than protocol 8 without being as sweeping as the Swiss idea.

They included strict procedural time limits to reduce delays, increased legal aid to help petitioners and opening the commission's hearings to the public and the press.

There was increased support at the conference for providing the commission with better facilities at its cramped Strasbourg headquarters.

The two bodies have issued a predictable declaration on human rights in the world and passed three resolutions reaffirming the commitment to human rights.

Nature council buys forest to save trees

By Rosemary Collins

The Nature Conservancy Council has bought 10,000 acres of birch forest, deer pasture and mountain meadowland in the Scottish Highlands to prevent its previous owners from planting 9 per cent of the area with Sitka spruce trees.

The NCC bought the 10,000-acre area for £450,000 by compulsory purchase. The reluctant sellers, Forest of Scotland, claimed that the deal was a waste of public money. Mr Mike Ashmore, the firm's Scottish director, said yesterday: "We knew when we bought this land that it was listed as a site of special scientific interest, duly protected, and if it had remained ours the NCC would have had wildlife conservation on the back of commercial forestry."

"Our plan was to plant Sitka spruce on a plot 10 per cent bigger than 16 per cent of the area, but this was reduced to 8 per cent after objections from the NCC. The Forestry Commission, the Red Deer Commission, the Department of Agriculture and the local planning authority all approved the 16 per cent application."

Fountain Forestry had intended to conserve the remaining 82 per cent of birch forest and alpine meadow on the Craig Meagaidh site, which ranges from 2,000 to 3,500 ft above sea level, 100 miles north of Perth.

The company and the NCC believe that about half the 10,000-acre deer park would be planted with Sitka spruce. The deal was a waste of public money, Mr Mike Ashmore, the firm's Scottish director, said yesterday: "We knew when we bought this land that it was listed as a site of special scientific interest, duly protected, and if it had remained ours the NCC would have had wildlife conservation on the back of commercial forestry."

"Our plan was to plant Sitka spruce on a plot 10 per cent bigger than 16 per cent of the area, but this was reduced to 8 per cent after objections from the NCC. The Forestry Commission, the Red Deer Commission, the Department of Agriculture and the local planning authority all approved the 16 per cent application."

When the spruce is felled in 20 or 30 years time there would have been money to invest in planting either more birch trees, or Scots pines, which were the original species on the site long ago. Unfortunately, Scots pines are very low volume timber-producing trees."

About 15 per cent of the Scottish Highlands, more than 800,000 acres, is now covered by sites of special scientific interest.

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Appointment of Treasurer

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Appointments continue on page 14

Police chief's US trip angers Labour group

By Alan Dunn

Government and police sources refused yesterday to say why the Chief Constable of Merseyside, Mr Kenneth Oxford, had been sent "on business" to Washington.

He may face demands for his resignation next Tuesday as he appears at a special meeting of the county's police committee. It has been called by Labour members to hear an explanation of his absence from a police committee meeting on Tuesday when new policing guidelines within Merseyside County Council's £213 million cash limit were being debated.

Apologies were given by his deputy, Mr John Burrow, who said that Mr Oxford was in the United States at the request of the Government.

Merseyside police yesterday refused to supply the state-

ment other than to say that he would be back on Sunday. A Home Office spokeswoman said only that he was in Washington "on business" and that he would be prepared to answer questions on his return.

There was speculation on Merseyside that he may be involved in talks on terrorism, based on his experiences with Northern Ireland.

As a member of the international committee of Interpol, he may be involved with a range of activities, including drugs. He has recently helped set up a community-wide drugs initiative and is an implacable opponent of drug trafficking.

Labour members of the council were angry that Mr Oxford had given no hint that he would be missing during Tuesday's meeting.

Plagiarism inquiry

By Our Education Editor

An inquiry into allegations of plagiarism by a lecturer at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology has been agreed by the institute's council.

The research assistant who has made the allegations, Mr Tony Coyle, has been given a deadline of March 27 by the council by which to submit a complaint to a grievance committee. But council said that even if he did not do so, the grievance committee would be reconstituted as a committee of inquiry to make its own investigation.

The council also agreed that the "dear" informal inquiry into the academic aspects of the plagiarism allegations should be made more formal, with two senior academics from outside the institute being brought in as assessors.

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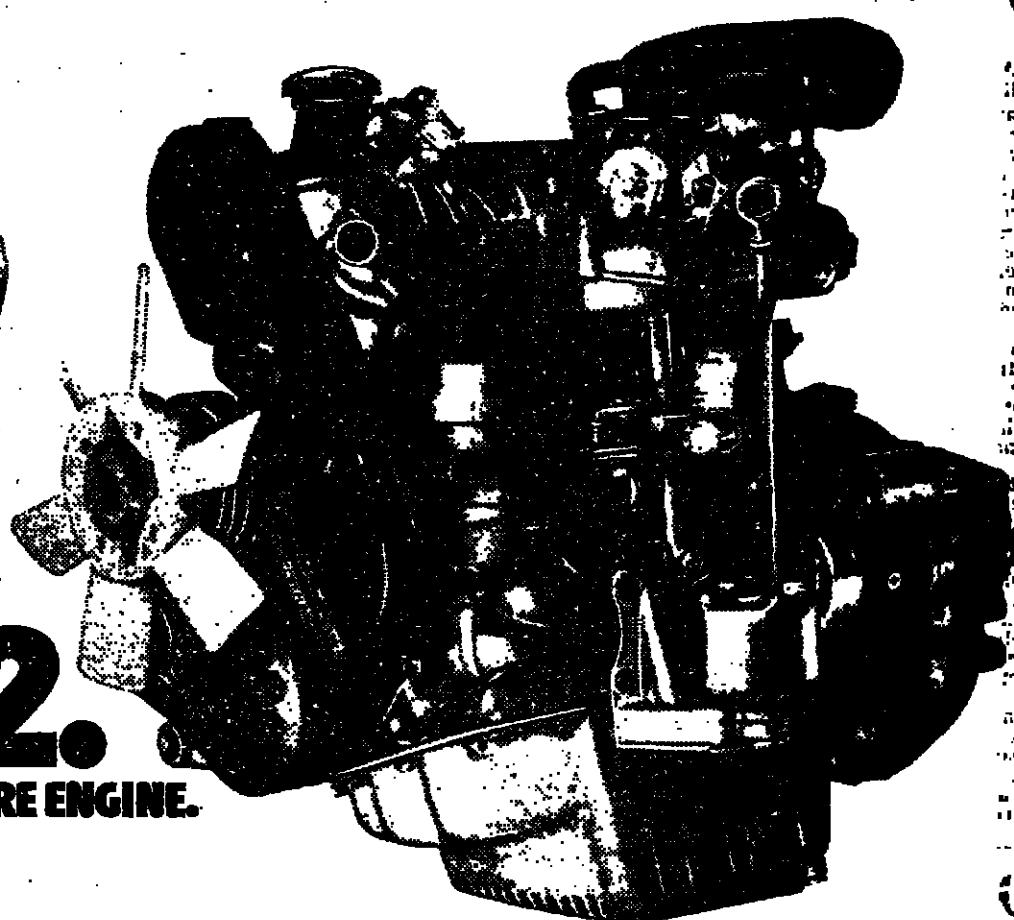
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Chancellor lets weight of past follies drag him down



ECONOMICS

Christopher Huhne

POOR Mr Nigel Lawson may have been a jolly good scribbler, but he certainly seems to miss a few political tricks. To tell lobby journalists immediately after his budget that he had been "boxed in" looked suspiciously like an apology, which of course implied that he had something to apologise about.

It would not be at all surprising if this budget marks the beginning of the Lawson-shooting season. Someone recently asked a Treasury man how he thought the Chancellor was putting the line across. The reply was that the line was coming across just fine: the problem was the damage it was doing to the Chancellor's political reputation.

The truth is that Mr Lawson is a far better Chancellor than his predecessor. He actually understands his own case,

and much of the case for the alternatives. Sir Geoffrey Howe was saved because his record was so disastrous — with unemployment rising at one point by 100,000 a month — that the Prime Minister could not afford to sack him without implicitly admitting her error.

By contrast, Mr Lawson has been relatively imaginative within the trammings set by the Government's strategy, but looks like falling victim to expectations which ministers themselves created to justify the follies of their last term of office.

In another sense too, the Chancellor is a victim of his own Government's past. It was Sir Geoffrey Howe's greatest mistake that he ever allowed the pound to ride to such heights in 1980 and 1981. The fall was certain; it always ran some risk of getting out of control; and it was equally bound to undo some of the gains which the high pound made possible against inflation, through lower import prices.

Without coordinated and repeated intervention in the foreign exchange markets, which would be made easier by membership of the European Monetary System, it is far from clear that domestic measures alone are that effective. The centrepiece of the Government's strategy for years has been to reduce borrowing to get interest rates down. Instead, borrowing is at historically low levels while real interest rates are their highest since 1922 to defend the pound.

Then again, the tough budget of 1981 was held by ministers to have helped to push the pound down, whereas the tough budget of 1985 is now held to have strengthened it (a

view confirmed by currency dealers over the last two days). On balance, it is likely that tough budgets do strengthen currencies, partly because they improve the trade balance by depressing imports and partly because they make the anticipation of capital gains on the bond market more real with prospective interest rate falls.

But that is really to come back to the central dilemma of government policy. So long as there is no direct lever over domestic cost pressures and hence inflation of the sort which would be afforded by incomes policy, the Chancellor will have to go on making unhappy choices between budgets to keep inflation down by keeping unemployment up and budgets to reduce the number of jobs.

Only in rare and happy international circumstances, on which he cannot rely — such as a plummeting dollar — is he likely to be able to have a modicum of both.

In this sense, the boxing-in of which Mr Lawson complained is largely of his own making. No one is forcing him to hold the views which he evidently does about the restrictiveness of market forces on labour.

There is no iron law which dictates that the Government should crucify itself on steadily declining monetary targets, indeed impact its hope and large tax cuts on a declining path for the share of the national income going in borrowing. If those targets are set up the Government must expect the small industry of analysts to cry foul wherever a whiff of deviation is sensed.

This was first and foremost, then, a

budget to reassure the financial markets, bolster the pound, and keep inflation down by the indirect method of restraining demand. On balance, it will do nothing to help reduce unemployment since the marginal effects of the special employment measures are likely to be offset by the tightening of budgetary policy between this year and next.

For the more technically minded, the Public Sector Financial Deficit — the best measure of the budget deficit which excludes such distortions as special sales of assets — is set to contract by about 0.75 per cent of national income, more than can be accounted for by the effects of high growth rates in tax revenues. This is a measure of the restrictiveness of the Chancellor's tax and spending decisions.

Mr Lawson may, of course, get lucky anyway and see a slight fall in the number of jobless, due to reasonable growth this year on the rebound from the miners' strike, but it would have been larger without his tax and spending changes. And if the fall does not happen this year, the prospects further ahead begin to look bleak. Without a change of policy in Europe, 1986 could see a marked slowing of growth and further rises in unemployment.

The reason why the national insurance changes will have relatively little effect is simply that the prime constraint on more jobs remains a lack of effective demand rather than the absolute level of wage costs. A change in relative wage costs, the Operation Twist floated in Nedo — whereby employers pay less national insurance on

the low paid and more on the high paid, may have some effect, but a marginal one.

The idea originated with Professor Richard Layard of the LSE who has always advocated budgetary expansion as well, and has seen such labour market measures as Operation Twist and an expansion of the community programme as a way of directing the consequent increase in employment to the hardest hit and most demoralised groups, such as the long-term unemployed. These are also those least likely to reduce anti-inflationary pressures since they spend little effort on job searching.

The increasing concern which the Thatcherites must feel about the political consequences of unemployment continuing at roughly present levels probably explains in part the Chancellor's large addition of £2 billion to the public spending contingency reserves next year and thereafter. In the short term, this was a useful way of reassuring the City about the credibility of the projected spending totals, which for the first time look realistic.

But in the longer term, the motive may be political insurance. In effect, the Chancellor has reduced the fiscal adjustment for tax cuts and shifted it into public spending, which could well allow a very large expansion of special employment and training measures in the run up to the election if things still look bleak. The risk from the Thatcherites' point of view is that spending ministers eat up the margin.

That increase in public spending could have several consequences. First, the Chancellor may in the short term

undershoot his spending totals, so that budgetary policy could become more restrictive than planned. Secondly, it could mean that the welcome community Scheme into something that provides genuine skills and an examined qualification actually happens — which it probably will not without more money.

But thirdly, it means that the shrunken fiscal adjustment available for tax cuts within the borrowing targets means that genuine tax reform will be that much harder to accomplish. The less than can be given away, the less chance of compensating away the loss from reforms, and the more the Chancellor is constrained merely to moving the furniture.

This is bound to reinforce the increasingly conservative urges of the Government. The Prime Minister has already declared mortgage tax relief and a number of other sacred cows, out of bounds. Mr Lawson ruled out any taxation of pension funds or any further extension of VAT in this parliament.

This is a remarkable reflection on the power of Britain's vested interests. The fear of losing the largest parliamentary majority since 1945 has evidently become a more potent consideration than the temptation of using it. The 1985 budget may well be seen as the point at which the Government lost its sense of direction, or even its capacity to offer convincing hope of economic improvement. The pound may have risen, but Mr Lawson's stock seems headed downwards.

Leader comment, page 12

Two revealing choices remain for tax reform

By John Kay

FOR the potential victims of Nigel Lawson's tax reforming zeal, the only bad news in the budget was the 10p he added by the price of a bottle of champagne.

Pension funds were not only spared any new taxation; they were told that any proposals would be preceded by a green paper and that no such green paper was planned. The tax-free status of the lump sum, "anomalous but much-loved" as the Chancellor put it, is to remain. Books, newspapers, food, fuel and children's clothing escape VAT not only for this year, but for the life of this Parliament.

The desire for tax reform has lacked a coherent strategy, and that is why momentum has so clearly been lost. This is implicitly recognised in the budget, and an encouraging feature is the indication that future major changes will be preceded by green papers and public discussion of options rather than appear as budget day surprises.

Potentially the most far reaching of these changes is the planned green paper on personal taxation. If the Chancellor's preference for individual taxation with transferable allowances is confirmed the result will be a radical redistribution of the tax burden with major implications for individual households and for women at work.

The recent tax treatment of husband and wife dates from a period when Soames Forsythe was the representative taxpayer. On marriage a woman was assumed to yield her income and her financial autonomy to her husband, and in recognition of the burden she imposed on him he received an additional married man's allowance, the structure is inappropriate for the twentieth century, far less the twenty-first, and substantial reform is long overdue.

After Tuesday's measures, a single person has a tax

allowance of £2,205; a married woman can earn the same amount before she starts to pay tax on her earnings; a married man receives an annual allowance of £3,405.

There are two principal possible directions of reform. Both begin with the abolition of the married man's allowance; a measure which would increase annual revenue of £4 billion.

Mr Lawson's favoured option uses this revenue to institute transferable allowances. Under this proposal, an individual with income in excess of £10,000 can transfer allowances, would be able to transfer the unused portion to a spouse. The allowance could be slightly higher than the existing single person's allowance—around £2,400 as compared with the present £2,205.

In practice, this would mean that a married woman who was not working would be able to transfer her allowance to her husband, so that he could earn £4,800 before he started to pay tax. Thus the tax burden on single earner households would be greatly reduced. Two earner couples would pay considerably more.

Transferable allowances benefit all couples where only one partner works, whether this is the result of choice, or lack of suitable job opportunities, or the need to bring up young children.

An alternative approach uses the £4 billion to protect

and improve the standard of living of those with household responsibilities rather than those who stay at home. This points to an increase in child benefit which would make a contribution to the costs of child care for those who choose to work and compensate for the loss of income for those who remain at home.

The revenue gained from the married man's allowance would enable child benefit to be doubled to £14 per child per week. The gains and losses to different types of household are shown in the table, and it can be seen that the implications for household income are very large — and very different.

The choice reduces to one between alternative views of society, and the role of women in it. Transferability strongly encourages married women from working, because every penny they earn is taxed at a minimum of 30 per cent.

Its advocates see the place of women as in the home and the role of the tax system as properly encouraging them to stay there. This may be an element of a "budget for jobs," but hardly an attractive one.

The child benefit approach is one which recognises that women will normally expect to work, but may find it difficult, or expensive, to do so. A major debate is just beginning.

John Kay is the director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

ANNUAL GAIN OR LOSS IN NET INCOME

	Single person	Single earner couple, no children	Two earner couple, no children	Two earner couple two children
Transferable allowances	+£80	+£420	-£300	-£300
Individual allowances	-	-£360	-£360	+£420
Increased child benefit	-	-	-	-

Growth in YTS jobs 'funded on cheap'

By David Hearst

THE GOVERNMENT was accused yesterday of trying to fund a big expansion of the Youth Training Scheme on the cheap, using money previously budgeted, but not spent on the first and second years of the scheme.

Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, was pressed for a detailed statement of how the Government would fund a big expansion of the scheme, using money previously budgeted, but not spent on the first and second years of the scheme.

In 1984-85 the Government planned to spend £1 billion on a scheme offering 450,000 training places. In practice, the Manpower Services Commission only managed to fill 370,000 places, at a cost of £800 million. This year it planned to fill 385,000 places at a cost of £827 million.

The Department of Employment said when the expansion was announced on Tuesday that the Government would provide an extra £125 million in 1985-86 and £300 million in 1987-88.

Mr King said: "Mr King is proposing to create a second year of training for the price of the original budget."

Mr Brown tabled a series of questions pressing Mr King on what share of the extra cost of the scheme employers will be expected to fund, how much the present training wage of £26.25 will be increased, and what element of training employers are expected to provide.

National Westminster Bank, which employs 69,000 people, said the measure would add about £3 million to its wage bill. NatWest's exclusive merchant banking arm, County Bank, said payroll costs would rise by 4 per cent.

BOC, the gases and health care group which pays its chairman, Mr Richard

CHANGE IN NET PAY: Married couple with occupational pension before and, in italics, after 7 per cent pay award											
	Weekly pay	Old tax	New tax	Tax gain	Old NI	New NI	NI loss	Old net pay	New net pay	Old tax rate	New Gain (+) or loss (-)
Current	100.00	11.80	10.07	+1.73	7.58	7.61	-3p	88.22	82.32	19.4pc	+1.7pc
After rise	107.00	12.17	12.17	0.00	8.09	8.09	0.00	94.83	86.74	18.9pc	+0.5pc
Current	200.00	41.80	40.07	+1.73	14.43	14.46	-3p	158.17	145.47	28.1pc	+0.8pc
After rise	214.00	44.37	44.37	0.00	15.42	15.42	0.00	169.63	154.31	27.9pc	+0.2pc
Current	300.00	71.80	70.07	+1.73	17.86	18.92	-1.06	218.14	211.01	29.9pc	+0.2pc
After rise	321.00	76.37	76.37	0.00	18.92	18.92	0.00	244.63	228.71	29.7pc	+0.2pc
Current	400.00	106.12	102.27	+3.85	18.92	18.92	-1.06	278.88	278.81	31.0pc	+0.7pc
After rise	428.00	113.47	113.47	0.00	18.92	18.92	0.00	314.53	295.61	30.9pc	+0.1pc

CHANGE IN NET PAY: Single person with no occupational pension before and, in italics, after 7 per cent pay award											
	Weekly pay	Old tax	New tax	Tax gain	Old NI	New NI	NI loss	Old net pay	New net pay	Old tax rate	New Gain (+) or loss (-)
Current	100.00	18.43	17.28	+1.15	9.00	9.00	nil	72.57	73.72	27.4pc	+1.2pc
After rise	107.00	19.38	19.38	0.00	9.63	9.63	0.00	77.62	77.99	27.1pc	+0.3pc
Current	200.00	48.43	47.28	+1.15	18.00	18.00	nil	133.57	134.72	32.2pc	+0.6pc
After rise	214.00	51.48	51.48	0.00	19.26	19.26	0.00	142.52	143.26	33.1pc	+0.1pc
Current	300.00	78.43	77.28	+1.15	22.50	22.50	-1.35	199.07	198.87	33.6pc	-0.1pc
After rise	321.00	83.58	83.58	0.00	23.85	23.85	0.00	217.42	217.42	33.5pc	+0.1pc
Current	400.00	115.53	111.88	+3.65	22.50	22.50	-1.35	261.97	264.27	34.5pc	+0.6pc
After rise	428.00	123.90	123.90	0.00	23.85	23.85	0.00	284.10	280.25	34.5pc	-0.1pc

TREASURY tables show that the tax gain of £1.15 a week for single people and £1.73 for married couples, as the budget changes will be offset for many middle-income earners by the loss of £1.35 in national insurance contributions, writes Martin Linton.

But nearly every category will be better off as a balance of the tax and national insurance rates

The immediate effect of the new rates in April is not as important as the overall effect of the new rates on the average earner who was a "typical" earner in the year.

The immediate effect on a single person earning £100 a week is a gain of £1.15. But when he or she wins an average pay rise there will be more tax to pay and the budget net benefit will be reduced to only 30p.

The two Treasury tables assume a rise of 7 per cent the annual increase in earnings to January, announced yesterday, purely as an "illustrative" figure, and show the combined effect of tax and national insurance on the wage earner's effective rate of tax.

The effective rate of tax on a married couple earning £100 a week will be cut on April 6 from 19.4 per cent to 18.9 per cent, a drop of 0.5 per cent or about 50p a week.

For most earners the budget's immediate effect will be far more significant than the long term effect. By the next budget their effective rate of tax will be much the same as it is now.

High flyers groan at insurance loading

By James Erickman

THE Chancellor's decision to tax the employers of the highly paid by abolishing the £15,000 ceiling on national insurance contributions brought bitter resentment from the City and other affluent quarters yesterday.

The budget measure is designed to raise £800 million. The Chancellor's decision to make employers pay the 10.45 per cent contribution on the full salaries of high earners will now be to cut employers' contributions for lower paid and make it cheaper for them to be employed.

National Westminster Bank, which employs 69,000 people, said the measure would add about £3 million to its wage bill. NatWest's exclusive merchant banking arm, County Bank, said payroll costs would rise by 4 per cent.

BOC, the gases and health care group which pays its chairman, Mr Richard

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Ladbroke unveils freesheet project

By Maggie Brown

TWO HOURS after the Chancellor announced his decision to extend VAT to newspaper advertising, themselves the Ladbroke group gave the go-ahead to a multi-million pound push into free magazines. The first local edition of what could be a quasi-national uniform project is to be published in Brighton within two months.

Mr Philip Davies, who is heading the project, said it has been planned for nearly

a year, but was put on ice until the Chancellor's VAT intentions became clear.

The Association of Free Newspapers, whose free-sheet advertising clients will bear some £10 million of the £50 million new tax to be raised, expect a sudden increase in the number of deals and expansion in this regional sector.

Fleet, owners of the Express group, is poised to strike, and Reed International is sizing up Portsmouth for its next daily free

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Chancellor in a straitjacket, Pym tells MPs

BUDGET DEBATE

By Alan Travis

The former Foreign Secretary, Mr Francis Pym, yesterday signalled the attack of the Tory "wets" when he told the Chancellor that his adherence to a rigid Public Sector Borrowing Requirement was a "straitjacket" that made it impossible for him to produce a "real budget for jobs".

Mr Pym told the Commons that it was now time to look at the whole basis of the economic policy which had been followed for the last six years and had "failed" in its objectives.

During a stormy debate on the Budget more than a dozen Labour MPs, including Mr Michael Foot, the former Labour Leader, walked out of the chamber after Mr Peter Rees, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, refused to apologise after misconstruing Labour Party policy on council house sales.

Mr Rees's speech was wrecked for about 30 minutes as Labour MPs barracked the Chief Secretary after he had accused Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's Deputy Leader, of saying that his party expected to back into public ownership council houses sold by local authorities.

Mr Hattersley said the charge was simply untrue and cited his comments from Hansard of a debate five years ago from which Mr Rees had based his charge.

Mr Hattersley, who opened the debate for the Opposition on this year's budget, told Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, that his unpopularity in the opinion polls was due to the fact that he "personified the callousness of Conservatism".

He accused the government of having "willfully miscalculated" the cost of the miners' strike and asked: "If the Government could afford £3 billion to fight the miners why could not the Government afford £3 billion to fight unemployment?"

"The budget was not a 'budget for jobs' as had been claimed, but would increase the net tax burden on the nation by a further £4 billion between now and the next budget," he said.

A married couple with one child will enjoy £7.50 a month tax reductions. But even if the building societies make no further increase in the mortgage rate the cost of an average mortgage had gone up since Christmas by £7.25 a month. The mortgage increase will virtually wipe out the average tax reductions for the average family.

He outlined a £5 billion package of investment in the infrastructure of the economy which he claimed could create 400,000 jobs in the next two years. And he challenged the Chancellor to state when the unemployment measures of the Government were going to work.

"Yesterday the message from the Chancellor was: 'Impatience is a bad counsellor'. It is great deal easier to be patient at No. 11 Downing Street than in the dole queue," he said.

The Government's policies over five years has "helped the rich at the expense of the poor," he claimed. The answer was a higher rate of average taxation by removing some of the tax privileges that the top 5 per cent now enjoyed.

Mr Rees was unable to begin his speech for 30 minutes after he made his mistaken charge about Labour Party policy on council house sales. He was visibly squirming at the Dispatch Box as Labour MPs demanded he withdraw the allegation when Mr Hattersley had proved it to be untrue.

PRESCRIBING

Drug list through Lords

By Colin Brown

PROPOSALS limiting the list of drugs which doctors can prescribe on the NHS were passed by the House of Lords early yesterday despite opposition and will come into effect on April 1.

An SDP amendment deploring the government's decision to implement the regulation without first giving the medical profession the opportunity to put their own proposals for responsible prescribing into effect for a trial period was defeated by 51 votes to 23.

For the SDP, Lord Kilmarnock said: "Our difference with the Government is that they have chosen control by regulation whereas we believe they have lost a great opportunity to secure the consent of the profession to voluntary self-regulation."

Lord Glenamara, the Health Minister in the Lords, said: "We very much hope CDRUG 1-2-BC that these doctors who are opposed to the selected list will not be so irresponsible, as some have threatened, as to demonstrate their opposition by following a policy of uneconomic prescribing."

Ponting jury right, says Denning

SECRETS ACT

By Colin Brown

LORD DENNING, the former Master of the Rolls, told the House of Lords yesterday that the acquittal of Clive Ponting after he was charged with a breach of the Official Secrets Act should lead to a change in the law.

Lord Denning, a crossbench peer, joined with Alliance and Labour peers in supporting a Liberal motion calling for the repeal of Section 2 of the Act. The Government did not oppose the motion.

The Home Office Minister in the Lords, Lord Elton, said that the Government was not satisfied with Section 2 and would like to put something else in its place. The form of its replacement could be found in the 1978 Protection of Official Information Bill. But he reminded peers that the Government had been forced to withdraw it because of lack of agreement about its provisions.

Opening the debate, Lord Wigoder, the Liberal spokesman, said the title of the Protection of Official Information Bill which the Alliance parties were demanding.

It was not entirely surprising, he said, that its restrictive provisions were found to

be so offensive that the Government was "mauled" in the second reading debate in the Lords and the Bill was withdrawn altogether 15 days later.

Lord Denning welcomed the verdict of the jury in the Clive Ponting case. He said, "They disregarded, as far as I can see, the direction of the judge. In spite of his direction, they found Clive Ponting unanimously not guilty."

"This is a precedent in this regard — that verdict should lead to a change in the law just as 50 years ago when freedom of speech was imperilled it was a verdict of a jury which compelled a change in the law."

Lord Denning said Julius had written in the London Evening Post words that were said to be a seditious libel on King George III. It said he "did not know the language of truth until he heard it in complaints from the public."

The printers and publishers were tried but when a not guilty verdict was returned by a jury despite a direction from the judge, Lord Mansfield, to find them guilty, "the hoarings could be heard across the metropolis."

Lord Denning said there were hoarings also from those present in the court when the verdict in the Ponting case was announced.

"That doesn't mean that the jury thought that Clive



Lord Denning — called for a change in law

Ponting was a first rate man doing what was right. They only meant he had not been guilty of a criminal offence.

"Here we come to the rub of the matter. That is where Section 2 is clearly wrong. Every legislation which produces a criminal offence with penalties should be clear and distinct so every man should know what he can and cannot do."

In the Ponting case, he added, much discussion had surrounded the words "in the interests of the state." If Clive Ponting had acted out of duty to the interests of the State he was not guilty. But if he had not done it in the interests of the state he was guilty.

"The judge seems from

given an impossible task by this Section 2."

Lord Denning added, "Repeal by itself is not enough. We do need urgently a clear, defined official Secrets Act. We must have confidence maintained throughout our Civil Service on these essential matters, of course on national security, but also on many other affairs which affect Governments."

Lord Denning supported repealing the Act and replacing it with the recommendations of the Franks Committee, which were also supported by Lord Wigoder. These were that there should be general protection against disclosure of information which might injure the security or safety of the state; that there should be a series of specific areas in which disclosures should be prohibited — defence, internal security, foreign relations, the value of sterling reserves, Cabinet papers, law and order and the affairs of private citizens.

Lord Wigoder gave four reasons for repealing Section 2: it was ridiculously wide in its application; it was dependent on the whim of the Attorney General; it put Governments in a privileged position above other organisations which had to depend on the civil law and it was difficult to understand. But he defended the judge in the Ponting case and said the criticism levelled at him fore the debate had been "highly irresponsible."

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Convention will not aid embryo research foes

THE European Convention on Human Rights will not provide any help to people who wish to stop research on human embryos.

This became clear in Vienna yesterday during the first ministerial meeting on the protection of human rights since the European Convention resigned 35 years ago.

Introducing a debate on the challenge to human rights posed by science and technology, the French Justice Minister, Mr Robert Badinter, said that although the Convention provided a right to life this could not be extended to embryos.

Some people had tried to claim that the right to life provided some protection, but no support could be found for this in the language in the Convention. It contained no definition of a person.

The clarification is important because the people supporting the private bill banning all research on embryos which has been introduced in the Commons by Mr Enoch Powell are expected to turn to the European Convention if, as expected, the bill fails to pass through Parliament.

Mr Timothy Renton, the Junior Foreign Minister, is leading a 10-member British delegation to the conference, said about 60 per cent of the British organisation which the Government

had consulted about research on human embryos had supported research so long as it was supervised by a licensing authority.

Mr Renton called for more international cooperation to prevent commercial surrogate agencies from being able to do as they please. He said the British Government, which had drafted a bill banning British surrogate agencies, recognised the need to cross national boundaries unless there was effective international cooperation.

A further obstacle was placed in the path of Mr Powell's private member's bill to ban research on embryos yesterday which could put greater pressure on the Government to assist the measure.

Mr Powell was hoping to get his Unborn Children (Protection) Bill through the committee stage to have a clear day for the report stage on the floor of the Commons.

But another bill, the Local Government (Access to Information) Bill, completed its committee stage yesterday and has taken up the last remaining vacant date for the report stage on May 17.

This means that, when Mr Powell's bill goes for report, it will have another private member's bill before it, which will seriously limit the time available for discussion and could deaden it a death blow.

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Arms programme 'increases threat of nuclear conflict'

Moscow hits at Reagan 'hypocrisy' over missiles

From Martin Walker in Moscow

The Reagan Administration was yesterday accused by the official Soviet news agency for proceeding with a new force of MX strategic missiles while claiming at the Geneva negotiations that it sought a reduction of nuclear arms.

Tass said that President Reagan's speech to Congress urging a vote for \$1.5 billion to fund the new MX force was "filled with demagoguery and militaristic ambitions."

"The Reagan Administration's plans are aimed at breaking the existing equilibrium in strategic armaments

American responsiveness to Mr Gorbachev's speech of last week, and his meetings with Western leaders, in which he had stressed his commitment to the Geneva talks.

Moscow's attitude is that the talks were already labouring under the burden of the US-based strategic arsenal through the MX vote, and Nato's Euro-missile arsenal through the Belgian deployment.

Krasnaya Zvezda, the armed forces newspaper, yesterday claimed that the cruise missiles were dangerously destabilising, because Soviet radar operators could never know whether incoming cruise missiles were carrying nuclear or conventional warheads.

"It is for practical purposes impossible to discern what missiles are in flight," nuclear weapons experts pointed out. This undoubtedly leads to a lowering of the nuclear threshold to a threateningly low level," the paper said.

The implication of the Krasnaya Zvezda article was that the Soviet Union has also been commenting sardonically on President Reagan's claim to Congress that it was his policy of negotiating from strength through the Star Wars project that had forced the Soviet side back to Geneva.

The Soviet media said yesterday that the Reagan Administration "is wrong if it thinks its programmes will take the USSR unawares or bleed it white with military spending.

Senators give MX another year

From Michael White in Washington

CONGRESSIONAL critics of the MX missile were conceding yesterday that President Reagan's handsome 10 vote majority in the key Senate vote will almost certainly ensure that both houses of Congress will back the missile building programme for another year.

After last year's 48-45 vote the senate voted 55-45 across party lines last night in favour of the Administration's request for \$1.5 billion to build 21 more missiles in 1985. Republicans control the Senate by 53 to 47, but 10 Democrats supported MX and eight Republicans did not.

The President's commitment of his personal prestige in lobbying senators, and his determined linking of the missile to US strength in the Geneva arms talks, was generally credited with swinging three Republicans and two Democrats back into his camp.

In the Democrat-controlled House, the appropriations committee yesterday bucked the trend by voting 28-28 against the MX expenditure. With the Senate due to vote again last night and the House voting twice next week, few expected it to make much difference. What the President wants to badly, he usually gets in these circumstances, even though some of his backers in the Senate were candidly dismissive of the MX's military reputation as a "glass jaw" weapon. Vulnerable to first strike and provocative of it.

Its original justification, a mobile system designed to close the supposed window of vulnerability, has long been forgotten.

Critics will, however, continue the fight as Senator Gary Hart pledged immediately after the first Senate vote. They drew some comfort from the fact that the President had been told by key senators that they would not wish to become involved in the internal US debate over arms control.

Mr Perle is widely seen as an opponent of arms control and an advocate of an ever more massive defence build-up in the United States. In his speech, he accused Sir Geoffrey of "rewriting the recent history of the Soviet-American strategic relationship, and rendering it unrecognisable to anyone who charted its course."



Military police seize an anti-nuclear protester in the Belgian Parliament yesterday

Martens wins on cruise

From Derek Brown in Brussels

Belgians will have the choice in the general election on December 8 of voting for the removal of cruise missiles. The Socialist opposition has announced that it will not enter any post-election coalition which is not firmly pledged to dismantle the missile base at Florennes.

The announcement came during a 15 hour debate in the lower chamber of Parliament here, which ended just after 5 pm with a comfortable vote of confidence for the governing centre-right coalition of Christian Democrats and Liberals.

The margin, 116 votes to 93 with one abstention, was surprisingly wide for a government which has been in office for only six and an internal faction opposed to the missiles. But only two Christian Demo-

crats defected, and the government vote was bolstered by rightwing independents.

The Prime Minister, Mr Wilfried Martens, who approved missile deployment last Friday, was the target for bags of soil, and a shower of paper, hurled from the public gallery after the vote was announced.

Mr Martens was not hit and a group of yelling youths was hustled from the gallery by his Foreign Minister, Mr Leo Tindemans, made emotional speeches in defence of the missile deployment, which has split public opinion.

Both the Prime Minister and his Foreign Minister, Mr Leo Tindemans, made emotional speeches in defence of the missile deployment, which has split public opinion.

But now the governing coalition, which also won a vote of confidence on its 1985 budget proposals, looks securely set to remain in office until the December election.

That will make it one of Belgium's longest serving gov-

ernments, having taken office in December, 1982.

Mr Martens, heading his fifth government and eager to form a sixth, is now compelled to maintain his alliance with the rightwing Liberals.

The two Socialist parties—all political movements here have separate Flemish and French-speaking components—have slammed the door on any chance of reviving their alliance of the early eighties with Mr Martens, with their hard line against the missiles.

Their anti-cruise stand also precludes a much rumoured new alignment with the Liberals, who are deeply committed to deployment.

The Socialists' best chance of winning office this year probably lies in attracting dissident Christian Democrat votes and forming an alliance with the Green parties.

SDI 'is danger to Geneva talks'

From Anna Tomforde in Essen

Chancellor Kohl yesterday warned Washington against wrecking the Geneva arms talks with the controversy about Star Wars, and said that the deployment of a space-based defence system could become superfluous if negotiations led to a substantial cut in offensive nuclear weapons.

In a speech to the conference of his ruling Christian Democratic Union, in Essen, Dr Kohl said that his Government had left open final approval of implementation of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) in order not to jeopardise the chances of success at Geneva.

He also called for a common European position on SDI, which should be presented jointly to Washington. Kohl's speech reflected concern that the Geneva negotiations could be undermined by the Star Wars debate—a fear that he linked with the special German interest in the development of constructive East-West relations.

"We want to preserve the chance of agreements, and that is why we have kept open the decision on the realisation of the Strategic Defence Initiative," Dr Kohl said. He did not repeat an earlier commitment that West Germany was prepared to back SDI research, nor did he mention the "technological benefits" Bonn could derive from that research.

Instead, he said that, above

Dr Kohl yesterday's decision has been kept open

all, the Alliance doctrine of "flexible response" should not be tampered with until there was an effective alternative to nuclear deterrence. This echoed similar concerns expressed by the Foreign Minister, Mr Genscher, earlier this week. Their statements have attracted special attention in Paris, and other European capitals, and appear to indicate that the Europeans do not consider the Star Wars debate with the US as closed.

On the contrary, senior aides in the chancellery have recently stressed that no decision had been taken on SDI, and that so far, Washington had not made a concrete offer of participation in the research project.

At a meeting of Nato defence experts and officials in Munich last month, Dr Kohl became the first West European leader to give his qualified support to SDI research, but said it was dependent on a full exchange of technological data and a guarantee that the Alliance would be maintained and "strategic instability" avoided.

In his speech to 800 party delegates in Essen yesterday, Dr Kohl said that 1985 could be a "decisive and fateful year" for arms control.

Nato Socialists seek an independent line

From Jill Jolliffe in Lisbon

A meeting of European Socialists from Nato countries began in Lisbon yesterday with a warning by the Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares, that while their loyalty to the Atlantic Alliance was not in doubt, Nato could not automatically assume that Europe would participate in a war resulting from a clash between the superpowers.

Representatives of Socialist parties from 12 Nato countries are participating in the three-day meeting, the first of its kind, to discuss a common Socialist policy on defence strategy in Europe.

"We believe there is a common European interest in expressing a stronger voice to both the US and the Soviet Union in the Geneva negotiations," one delegate said. "For example, the British and French positions on nuclear weapons could have been put in the Geneva talks, but were not."

Socialist governments are in

power in a majority of the countries represented, but while Dr Soares referred to shared attitudes on defence policy, it was clear that there were significant differences.

Spain's Socialist Government is facing a referendum on its Nato membership and Greece and France hold markedly independent positions within the framework of the alliance.

Dr Soares also said that European Socialists agreed that a policy of unilateral disarmament was undesirable, but a spokesman said later that this was not the policy of the International Socialist organisation which called the meeting.

Nevertheless the conference expresses a growing consciousness among European Socialists in the wake of independent initiative by the West German Social Democrat Party, that Europe would be the obvious theatre of war in any future clash between Nato and Warsaw Pact forces, but that European states could not passively accept such an assumption.

Howe attack on Star Wars defence angers US

By Hella Pick

A row is developing between the United States and Britain about a speech by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, in which he expressed misgivings about the Administration's Strategic Defence Initiative, and warned that it could eventually risk the disintegration of Nato.

The British Government has denied that Sir Geoffrey's declarations contravened the agreement between Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan, under which Britain promised to sup-

port the research phase of the Star Wars programme and obtained a US undertaking that any deployment of space weapons would be a matter for negotiation.

The US Ambassador, Mr Charles Price, made a "routine call" on the Foreign Secretary yesterday, where the speech was brought up. There is little doubt that Mr Price had been told to indicate that Mr Reagan strongly resents

British descriptions of the Strategic Defence Initiative as a "new Maginot Line of the 20th century, liable to be out-

ranked by relatively simpler and demonstrably cheaper Soviet counter-measures.

The exchanges, in Sir Geoffrey's office, have been far surpassed by the slashing attack delivered in London on Tuesday night by Mr Richard Perle, the US Assistant Secretary for Defence.

Addressing a largely conservative audience at the Beyond 1984 Conference, Mr Perle decried large parts of a long speech, criticising the Foreign Secretary's views, and

even his intelligence. He set out to depict Sir Geoffrey as naive.

British officials said yesterday that they had not had time to read the speech. In any case, they would not comment since the Government had no wish to become involved in the internal US debate over arms control.

Mr Perle is widely seen as an opponent of arms control and an advocate of an ever more massive defence build-up in the United States. In his speech, he accused Sir Geoffrey of "rewriting the recent history of the Soviet-American strategic relationship, and rendering it unrecognisable to anyone who charted its course."

The Foreign Secretary's comments on the political risks surrounding the development of space technology were dismissed by Mr Perle as tendentious. But he was at his most scathing when he complained that Sir Geoffrey "might have found room for a sentence, or even a phrase, on the enlarging pattern of Soviet violations

of the most important arms control agreements that exist between the United States and the Soviet Union. Yet he remained silent."

Mr Perle contended that the Kremlin has bent every important arms control treaty that it has signed with the United States, including the 1972 Salt treaty and the ABM treaty, limiting defensive systems, that accompanied it. He said that the Soviet radar, now under construction near Krasnaya, blatantly violates the ABM treaty.

Rebel priest again attacked



Father Leonardo Boff

From George Armstrong in Rome

The Vatican's Doctrinal Office said yesterday that some of the writings of Father Leonardo Boff, the Brazilian Franciscan who has become a spokesman for Latin America's theology of liberation, "are such as to endanger the whole doctrine of the faith, which this office has the duty to promote and to safeguard."

The statement was signed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger and the text was made public with the approval of the Pope.

The words "liberation theology" do not appear in the document. However, the many accusations levelled against Father Boff probably could be summarised as being that the

Vatican has found him guilty of "protestantism."

The Vatican document quotes a book by Father Boff as saying that "the church as an institution was not in the thoughts of the historic Jesus, but rose a later development after his resurrection."

The Vatican document mentions no possible sanctions against the priest. The next move is up to Father Boff and the Vatican expects him to respond to the ruling.

The document rebuts point by point Father Boff's published views in four main areas—the Church hierarchy, the method of interpreting the dogma, exercise of the sacred power and the Church's prophetic role.

Robbery charges

From our Correspondent in Bonn

A former leading local politician of the Free Democrat Party, the junior partner in the ruling coalition, was charged yesterday with armed robbery and causing grievous bodily harm.

Hans-Otto Scholl, aged 52, denies having staged an armed raid on a jeweller's shop in Baden-Baden last December, in which jewellery worth \$720,000 was taken.

He is accused of entering the shop with a revolver, tying up the owner's 22-year-old son and his 19-year-old girlfriend.

Le Pen is accused of killing

From Campbell Page in Paris

Mr Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the extreme right National Front, was accused yesterday of responsibility for the death of a Moroccan shopkeeper during the Algerian war of independence in 1957.

Mr Le Pen then a 26-year-old Ponsardist deputy in the National Assembly, returned to military service in the Parachute Regiment of the Foreign Legion at his own request.

The newspaper, Liberation, which last month published allegations by five Algerians that Mr Le Pen had supervised or taken part in torture and executed a detainee, printed the new allegations on the eve

of a libel action by the National Front leader against the satirical weekly, Le Canard Enchaîné, which has also attacked his conduct in Algeria.

Relatives of the Moroccan, Mr Ahmed Moulay, described yesterday how Lieutenant Le Pen and soldiers under his command maltreated him in their late night search of the family home for one of his brothers-in-law.

Mr Moulay, aged 43, died after further torture with electric shocks and water at his shop near by. The soldiers dressed the corpse, dumped it in the street, and fired a round of bullets into the body.

According to the official version, Mr Moulay had been shot dead while trying to escape from routine questioning in the Casbah.

Iraqi spy's body found

From Roland Stanbridge in Stockholm

Police have identified the dismembered body of a man found on Sunday in a forest outside Stockholm as that of a defector from the secret police of Iraq.

Mr Majid Hussein arrived in Sweden two years ago seeking political asylum. He claimed that he had been a bodyguard to President Hussein for nine years, but had deserted when ordered to conduct sabotage in Kuwait. He said his task was to bomb an oil installation and then murder his two Iranian assistants.

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Cartier's face state sales tax charges

From our own Correspondent in New York

Cartier's, the Fifth Avenue jewellers, and two of its senior executives, have been charged with helping rich customers to evade New York taxes on their glittering purchases.

According to one of the attorneys involved in the three-year investigation of New York's luxury stores, staff would not always add the 8.25 per cent state and city sales tax to the bill for a \$10,000 piece of jewellery. They would say: "Don't pay the \$825 tax on that bracelet. Give me the address of your grandmother in Iowa."

Out-of-state residents are exempt from local taxes unless, in this case, the grandmother intended to wear the rocks mainly in New York.

The customer's ageing relative would then be sent an empty box, while the Manhattan-dweller would leave the store with the purchase. According to the investigators, two-thirds of all Cartier sales went untaxed, a figure which rose to 90 per cent on items costing more than \$10,000.

The largest single bauble listed in the indictment is a \$175,000 platinum, emerald, and diamond bracelet, which should have made New York \$14,437.50 richer, but didn't. It is one of 255 charges of falsifying business records.

Cartier's was saying little yesterday, while New York's mayor, Mr Ed Koch, and indignant state officials were warning everyone who evaded what is the nearest equivalent of VAT: "This is only the beginning." If found guilty, the two executives face fines of up to \$5,000 and four years in prison on each count, albeit consecutively rather than concurrently.

Cartier's lawyer says that the charges have not come as a surprise, and that the store is "standing behind" its staff.

Investigators who posed as wealthy customers reported that in the cut-throat world of luxury furs and jewellery along Fifth Avenue it was usu-

ally staff who propositioned the customer about evading the tax, the potential for which runs into millions. New York is now threatening to get the unpaid taxes back from its wealthy citizens, and even to prosecute them in future.

In no matter what their elevated social and economic positions, they would be distressing evidence of human frailty to the Reagan Administration, which has cut tax rates for the rich by 25 per cent plus inflation in the past three years, in the hope of restoring incentives. At the same time, it has cut social spending on the poor, many of whom also live in New York.

Britain blamed for impasse

President Raul Alfonsín of Argentina yesterday blamed Britain for the impasse over the Falkland Islands, writes Mark Tran in Washington.

In speeches before a joint session of Congress and the Organisation of American States in Washington, he said Argentina was willing to negotiate in order to solve the issue but it had "stumbled upon Britain's repeated refusals."

The delay in solving the controversy, he went on, and the establishment of what Mr Alfonsín described as a local point in the south Atlantic which could embroil the region in superpower stratagems.

Troops quell La Paz riots

La Paz: Troops and tanks were mobilised throughout the capital yesterday and air force planes flew over the city after striking miners and workers set up road blocks to add further emphasis to their strike which has paralysed Bolivia's productive sector for 13 days.

It is the first time since President Hernán Siles Zuazo took over in October, 1982, as the country's first popularly elected president in 18 years, that the army has been deployed.

President Siles Zuazo ordered the move at a meeting with the joint Chiefs of Staff, Tanks, troops, and National

Guard units armed with rifles and tear gas canisters were posted at roads leading to La Paz and near the presidential palace.

The army went into action one day after at least 10,000 miners blocked the streets of La Paz for seven hours, bringing traffic to a halt and forcing businesses to close. Miners were also reported to have detonated dynamite-sticks in the town centre.

General elections are scheduled for July 14. The front runners are General Hugo Banzer Suarez and Victor Paz Estenssoro, who head rightwing political parties. The Labour Confederation has

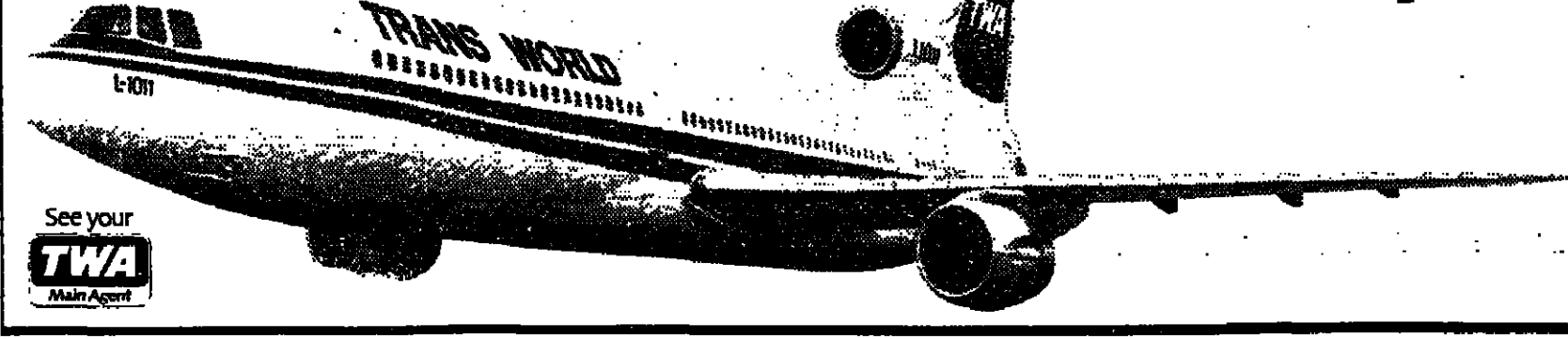
rejected the elections and called instead on the installation of a Socialist workers' government.

The Labour Confederation is demanding wage increases in the range of 400 to 800 per cent to be adjusted according to inflation. Labour has also asked for the resignation of the President, the nationalisation of banks, price controls, and a freeze on foreign debt payments.

The armed forces chief, General Simon Sesay Toranzo, said on Tuesday that the military would ensure that President Siles Zuazo remained in power to fulfil a pledge to step down a year early, in August.

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Israel's surrogates put the Irish under pressure

From Ian Black in Brashit, S. Lebanon

CONTAINMENT positions 817 Alpha and 820 Alpha of Bravo Company of the Irish Battalion of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon are two corrugated iron booths separated by 500 yards of winding village road and a checkpoint manned by local militiamen who work for the Israelis.

From the sandbagged rooftop of the main company square of this Shiite Muslim community you can clearly see the two UN posts and the low hills rising above them from which the militiamen fired their machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades at the Irish on two consecutive days this week.

It is an unusually long and serious incident for a sector of south Lebanon which has remained calm in the last month while the villages to the west, in the French UNIFIL area near Tyre, have felt the heavy hand of Israeli troops and Shin Bet intelligence agents fighting back against Shiite resistance.

Several hundred rounds and 23 hours of confrontation with the militiamen were enough to

convince the Irish that something was definitely up. "We've had more incidents of a serious nature in the last few weeks than we've had for a long time before," said Major Padraig O'Callaghan, the Bravo commander.

A mile away at Camp Shamrock, the battalion HQ, you can clearly see what the UN maps refer to as hill 830, the highest point on a gentle ridge that runs inland from the Mediterranean coast south of Tyre to northern Israel.

As the military planners in Tel Aviv speed up the troop withdrawal from the occupied

South, a new line is coalescing between five and seven miles north of the international border, that now seems likely to mark the extent of the security zone to stem guerrilla incursions threatening the peace of Galilee.

A quick glance at the map makes it fairly clear that the Israelis would prefer a security zone without an irritating UNIFIL position on its border at Brashit.

The Irish soldiers are convinced that Israel is using its surrogates in the area to increase pressure on them to go home. There have already been

suggestions in Dublin that the battalion should be recalled.

The Irish have no doubts about the loyalty of Hussein Abdel Naji, the Brashit man who heads the local militia. His forces are known by the UNIFIL acronym LAULI—Lebanese armed and uniformed by Israel.

Mr Abdel Naji, who started the incident in the village by refusing to allow the Irish soldiers to search his car, is regularly visited by Israeli army and Shin Bet officers. He is the model for the type of local militia leader the Israelis now say they plan to

bolster in the future.

Mr Abdel Naji, by all accounts, is a man whose civil qualities leave much to be desired. On Tuesday, his brother shot dead out of 40 children from the village school to surround the militia checkpoint and hunt parts of a UNIFIL road block into the wadi below.

"Rather than fire over the heads of the children," said Major O'Callaghan, "I ordered my men to withdraw. They didn't look to me like kids who'd been given a day of school. I was told they'd been ordered to report to the LAULI checkpoint."

Iran responds to air blockade with threat to Baghdad airport

Civilians in front line of Gulf War

From David Hirst in Amman

With their two armies apparently having fought themselves to a standstill in the latest and possibly bloodiest battle in the Gulf War, Iraq and Iran are settling back into attacks on each other's civilian targets. Iraq yesterday carried out air raids on "selected targets" in three Iranian cities, while Iran continued its artillery bombardment of Basra.

The new dimension in the "war of civilians" is the threat to international air traffic. On Tuesday, Western airlines evacuated foreigners from Tehran on special flights, following Iran's announcement that it would impose a blockade on Iranian airspace. Iran responded with a threat to strike Baghdad airport, and even hinted that the Arab Gulf states, Iraq's backers, might suffer too.

Iran's Prime Minister, Mr Hussein Moussavi, called Iraq's warning that foreign airlines were at risk over Iran "insane," and warned that Baghdad airport "must come under repeated blows by our powerful missiles."

Iran claims to have launched four such missiles on Baghdad in the past few days. The city has indeed been rocked by four huge explosions, the first two of which the Iraqis claim to have been the work of "Iranian agents."

The claim was a strange one, in that the explosions occurred in very sensitive areas, such as Karadaiyeh, near the presidential palace, where top Basathis live. It would seem politically more damaging to attribute them to saboteurs who were apparently able to penetrate very tight security — than to allow the Iranian missile claim.

Diplomats incline to believe the sabotage theory, but there is also a school of thought that the Iraqis have been supplied with Russian built Scuds — the same as those used by Iraq — by its Libyan or Syrian allies. At all events, Iraq has every reason to take the threat to Baghdad airport seriously.

"At the same time," Mr Moussavi warned, "the world

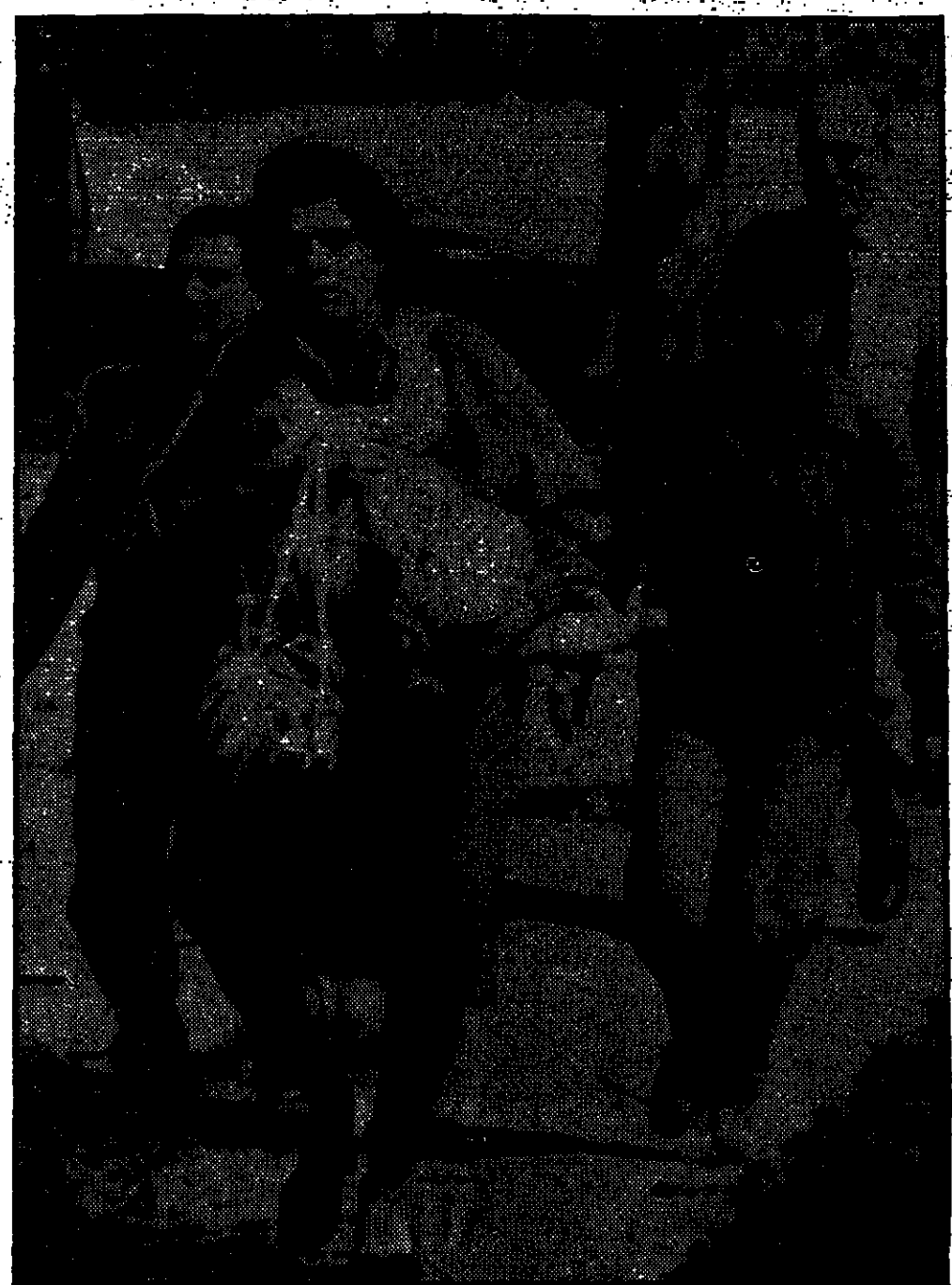
Struggle for Sidon cuts off families

From Julie Flint in Sidon

"THIS WAY, please," said Anwar Baba, climbing up a steep ladder and entering a tunnel through a narrow landing window. "We haven't been able to get to the front door for three days because of sniping."

The Babas live on Sidon's Green Line, an uncomfortable area sandwiched between the predominantly Muslim city and the Christian-controlled hill suburbs to the east. Their troubles began in June 1982 with Israel's invasion of Lebanon and occupation of Sidon.

MORTAR shells exploded in central Sidon late yesterday. Sniper fire raked streets in an area between the Lebanese army and Christian gunmen. Security sources said clashes that began on Monday erupted again after the rebel Christian forces ignored a deadline for accepting a ceasefire plan.—Reuters.



A Lebanese woman leads her family away from the fighting in Sidon

and are now beginning again — after a month of peace — with the first spinoff from the rightwing, pro-Israeli Christian rebellion against President Gemayel.

When the Israelis left the Sidon area a month ago, they forecast vicious intercommunal fighting. But their departure was peaceful and the Lebanese army's takeover triumphant. Until the Christian rebel leader, Mr Samir Geagea, rose up against the Syrian-backed government in the Beirut area and the Christian Lebanese forces militia went on the offensive in the Sidon area, threatening the fulfilment of the worst Israeli prophesies.

Before the Israeli invasion, Sidon, 90 per cent Muslim and 10 per cent Christian, was spared the worst of the fighting that plagued Beirut and Tripoli. But the Israeli invasion had catastrophic results: the seven-storey building adjacent to the Babas' home was wrecked in an air raid, and weeds now grow high up in the air where carpeting was. Their own building was hit by a phosphorus shell — fired, they think, from a gunboat — and had to be completely rebuilt.

Three months before the Israelis finally left, the family just discovered a 440-lb car bomb. "The driver stopped at our checkpoint and said 'Peace be with you,' a Shiite greeting. But we asked for his papers. He was a Phalangist. He said that another bomb was on its way."

The people of Sidon are convinced that Israel, or part of it, is behind their trouble. "The Lebanese Forces," a tiny minority in the Sidon area, "wouldn't do this without someone behind them," they say. There is a widely shared belief that fighters are being sent down from the north, while Israel is pushing weapons in from the east.

Despite its welcome of the army, Sidon has served warning that the Muslim militias will take over openly unless the army succeeds in asserting its authority in the hill suburbs in the very near future.

Already there are hundreds of Muslim militiamen in civilian clothes in Sidon. Some of them, like those around the Babas' building, are middle class youths helping out. Others are making a career of it.

Although Sidon was enjoying a full yesterday after two days of fierce battles, the general mood was pessimistic. As we climbed out of the Babas' window and down the steep ladder, a middle aged Sunni Muslim shook his head and commented: "It's back to 1976, the year one of Lebanon's civil war."

Mr Anderson said that the investigation he was conducting could not happen at the company's plant in Institute, West Virginia, and it would resume manufacturing methyl isocyanate.

The company's report said the accidental or deliberate addition of 120 to 240 US gallons of water appeared to have led to chemical reactions producing high temperatures and subsequent excessive pressures.

SA opponents on TV

Johannesburg: The South African President, Mr P. W. Botha, and the leader of the main black guerrilla group will speak on the same American television programme tomorrow.

Mr Botha will be interviewed in Cape Town, and Mr Oliver Tambo, head of the banned African National Congress (ANC), will be interviewed at his headquarters in exile in Lusaka, Zambia. The interview will be broadcast one day after the 25th anniversary of the Sharpsville killings.

Mr Tambo cannot be quoted in South Africa because of the security laws.

ABC television said Mr Botha's interview would be taped ahead of Mr Tambo's contribution, and the two would not speak to each other.—Reuters.

20,000 waiting to cross into Sudan

By Nick Cater

Up to 20,000 Tigrean refugees are waiting to cross the border into Sudan and another 110,000 could follow later, a senior aid official warned yesterday.

Dr John Seaman, the Save the Children Fund's senior medical officer, said that more than half a million refugees were expected to arrive in Sudan in the next few months.

Dr Seaman and Mr Mark Bowden, SCF's Africa director, have just returned from a tour of Ethiopia and Sudan, where they said emergency aid would be needed through this year and well into 1986.

Relief efforts were building up in the overcrowded camps of eastern Sudan and new settlements were being created, although these would take two or three months to become established with good water supplies.

Dr Seaman said that many refugees arrived in fairly good condition, but the continuing difficulties meant that they could quickly decline. Mr

Bowden confirmed that some refugees had left the camps to walk back into Ethiopia.

Save the Children Fund has raised with the Ethiopian government its concern that the pace of the resettlement programme within the country—300,000 have been moved from the northern highlands to more fertile southern areas—was not fast enough to be moved in the next year—is diverting resources from the immediate needs of famine relief.

Mr Bowden said that in Ethiopia there were worries that the 600,000 tonnes of grain committed by governments and UN agencies might not all arrive in time.

AP adds from Addis Ababa: Ethiopian and UN officials yesterday expressed concern that the planned withdrawal of two RAF Hercules planes would force relief airlifts to be cut.

UN officials also reported that a third of 64 donated West German lorries had been written off by damage during their voyage to the port of Assab.

Nyerere points the way for poorer countries

By Patrick Keatley, Diplomatic Correspondent

President Nyerere of Tanzania, at the end of his visit to London, said last night that the time had come for Third World leaders, starting with Africa, to start their collective voice to start a dialogue with the rich industrial countries.

Posing the alternatives as "dialogue or confrontation," he said that Tanzanian negotiations with the International Monetary Fund were now just as badly deadlocked as when they began in 1980. The proposed conditions for an IMF loan "would imperil our social and political stability."

Speaking to the Royal Commonwealth Society, Dr Nyerere said: "Dialogue continues to be refused. We cannot now even get talks about the International Economic Order."

"Should the Third World now use the power of its debt — its collective indebtedness — to force discussions? If Africa decides to act as a group,

Midland Bank Interest Rates

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Deposit Accounts
Interest on Deposit Accounts decreases by 0.25% to 7.5% net p.a. with effect from 20th March 1985



Interest for those customers who will continue to receive their interest gross decreases to 10.03% p.a. Interest paid before 6th April 1985 will also be at the gross rate.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy hit by strikes

A WAVE of strikes for more pay by pilots, seamen and petrol pump attendants will disrupt air and road travel in Italy until Monday.

The country will also be without national papers today and tomorrow because of a walkout by journalists, the fourth in recent weeks. Law court staff and doctors also plan strikes.—Reuters.

Converts gaoled

EIGHT men, including two teenagers, have been sentenced to six months in prison on charges of being converted to Christianity to the detriment of Hinduism, and of propagating their new religion in Hindu Nepal. Nepalese law does not specifically ban people from being Christians, but Hindus converting to another religion are liable to up to a year in jail.—AP.

Cocaine cargo

CUSTOMS agents seized \$3.3 million worth of cocaine aboard a West German airliner when it arrived in Puerto Rico from Bogota, the third major drugs haul on the route in less than a year. The cocaine was hidden in one of the plane's lavatories.—AP.

Dowry toll

MORE than 1,000 Indian women have died in "dowry deaths" over the past three years, the Indian Parliament was told yesterday. Dowry deaths are the death by suicide or murder of a wife whose dowry is considered insufficient by in-laws.—Reuters.

Envoy missing

INDIAN police have failed to find a missing Soviet diplomat, Mr Igor Gheja, who vanished after an early morning stroll five days ago in a New Delhi park.—Reuters.

Death ruling

THE US Supreme Court yesterday unanimously ruled that use of lethal injections for executions can continue.—AP.

Hope for cows

WORRIED Hindus have appealed to West Germany to send unwanted cows — sacred to Hindus — to India instead of the abattoir, the Bonn Farm Ministry said yesterday.

ETA arrests

FRENCH police yesterday arrested two men and two women considered to be among the last of the hardcore members of the political-military wing of the Basque separatist movement, ETA.—AP.

Spy charges

SOUTH Korea said yesterday it had arrested eight people, including a former professor, and charged them with spying for North Korea.

Ershad pledges to step down if he is defeated

From Eric Silver in Dhaka

On the eve of the Bangladesh referendum, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said last night that he would step down if the people voted against him.

Unlike President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan, however, he added that he would not interpret a yes vote as a mandate to continue far another five-year term. General Ershad reiterated his determination to restore democracy, provided the political parties would cooperate, but he did not commit himself to a timetable.

"If you want to have a democratic system," he said, in an interview, "you must have parties."

"The referendum will help me to bring the parties to election. They won't be able to say my Government is illegal. I'd like them to take part. I'll try to bring them to election."

The President argued that Bangladesh had 90 parties of every ideological hue. Even if some of them did not participate, elections could still be held. They would not be non-party elections.

"If I get a mandate in the referendum, it will be up to the parties to come forward. Any time they are ready for elections, I'll hold elections."

He insisted that he had reached the limit of the concessions he could make to them, and was utterly disappointed at their refusal to cooperate after he had dismantled much of the apparatus of martial law earlier this year.

Asked if he would stand for the presidency when elections were held, the general replied: "If the people want me, I'll be there, but I have not taken a final decision."

The question which will be put to Bangladesh's 49 million voters today is unambiguous: "Do you support the policies and programme of President Ershad and do you want him to continue to run this administration until a civilian government is formed through election?"

The President is hoping for a 60 per cent turnout, though independent observers believe he will be lucky if half that number go to the polls. There is no discernible enthusiasm for the campaign, in which the press has been muzzled and the opposition parties reduced to throwing ineffective petrol bombs, teargas, and putting Ershad posters, and putting out hostile communiques by furtive telephone calls.

Despite widespread scepticism, General Ershad insisted last night that the Government would not rig the ballot. We are not interfering, he protested. "I am a soldier. I believe in a straight path." His critics, however, recall the last official figures were far higher than any objective witnesses could credit.

About 500 political activists are believed to have been arrested since the referendum at the beginning of this month. Official sources put the figure at about 300, most of whom were alleged to be "hoodlums."

The new main opposition leaders, Mrs Hasina Wazed and Mrs Khaleida Zia, are under strict house arrest in the capital.

At the home of Mrs Wazed, a daughter of Bangladesh's first president, Mujibur Rahman, I was stopped yesterday by both uniformed and plainclothes policemen. They told me it was forbidden to meet her, for one minute. They added that her telephone was not working. Armed police were on guard on all sides of the house, and reinforcements were camping in three tents on the lawn.

Her 15-party alliance, however, yesterday issued a communique urging the people to boycott the referendum.

"This referendum carries no meaning," it said. "We cannot propagate our views of campaign for a vote. Politics is banned. The ultimate outcome this will be a yes vote. To campaign against the referendum is punishable under martial law. There will be no argument for a vote. Thus, it is a farce. Even if the people do not go to the polling booth at all, the Government will declare an historical victory."

Among more than a dozen political bombs exploded in Dhaka in the past 48 hours was one which shattered the windows of a police station in the centre of town. There were no casualties.

Sabotage 'possible' at Bhopal plant

Danbury, Connecticut: Union Carbide yesterday announced the findings of its investigation into the fatal gas leak at its plant in India last December, and the chairman, Mr Warren Anderson, said sabotage could not be ruled out.

However, Mr Anderson said that, even with sabotage, the leak could have been contained had plant management not deliberately ignored standard safety measures and operating procedures. The leak of methyl isocyanate gas at the plant at Bhopal killed 2,500 people and injured at least 250,000.

Mr Anderson said that after the investigation he was satisfied that the accident could not happen at the company's plant in Institute, West Virginia, and it would resume manufacturing methyl isocyanate.

The company's report said the accidental or deliberate addition of 120 to 240 US gallons of water appeared to have led to chemical reactions producing high temperatures and subsequent excessive pressures.

Riot city investigation

New Delhi: The Prime Minister, Mr Gandhi, yesterday ordered a senior minister to India's riot-hit city of Ahmedabad where eight people have been killed in caste violence.

He told MPs who were demanding a debate on looting, arson, and street battles, that the situation had taken a serious turn, but gave no details.

He said he had ordered the Home Minister, Mr S. B. Chavan, to the capital of Gujarat to investigate the clashes.

The Press Trust of India said eight people had been killed since violence began on Monday during student protests about a policy of reserving government jobs and university places for India's underprivileged castes.

Despite stepped up patrols by soldiers, and an extension of curfews in worst-affected areas, at least 10 people were injured yesterday when police opened fire to disperse looters and stone-throwing crowds.

Rioters also made several attempts to set buildings in the city on fire.

A family planning campaign which yesterday aimed to sterilise 12 people a minute over the next 10 weeks.

In a message of support, Mr Gandhi said the success of the family planning programme was essential for India's prosperity and progress. He stressed that it was a voluntary scheme.

Experts have predicted that by the year 2050 India's population, now 740 million, would exceed that of China, now just over one billion, if it did not reduce its current annual birth rate of 34 per 1,000.—Reuters.

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH

Embassy of The Islamic Republic of Iran
An invitation to doctors and volunteers with an interest in the effects of chemical warfare.

In violation of all humanitarian principles and recognised international conventions including the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the regime of Iraq has once again deployed chemical gas in its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and turned down the request of the Secretary General of the United Nations to desist from the use of chemical gas and bombs on the basis of the international prohibition of chemical weapons.

We hereby invite enquiries from all those familiar with these substances and experienced in treating injuries of this nature, or those doctors prepared to treat the victims of chemical warfare on a humanitarian basis in this country or in Iran.

We welcome queries at:
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London
27 Princes Gate, London SW7
Telephone: 01-584 8101, Extension: 24



FROM LEFT: BODY MAP, BETTY JACKSON (TOP LEFT), ELAINE CHALONER (BELOW LEFT), SHERIDAN BARNETT, JOHN MCINTYRE

British open

There's no stopping our designers as Brenda Polan discovered at London Fashion Week. Pictures by Frank Martin

British style, when left to its own imaginative devices, tends towards the decorated, the mystical and the full-bloodedly romantic. So it came as no surprise this week as Britain's internationally acclaimed designers displayed their growing confidence and assumed a well-deserved world leadership of fashion, to note that that is exactly the direction it is taking for next autumn and winter.

It was evident in the many equestrian looks, from John McIntyre's torso-bugging dressage outfits in leather and cream cut corduroy, through Betty Jackson's light-hearted cropped jodhpurs to Jasper Conran's dashing scarlet redingote and Paul Costelloe's dark brocades, an evocation of a masked horseman of another century.

It was evident in the richness of the fabric and the colours. Roland Klein resumed his love affair with satin; Betty Jackson used fine cashmere for the first time; John McIntyre created a baroque mood with beaver-trimmed huge coats in purple plucked fabric decorated with crewel embroidery in the same colour, worn over long, full skirts in the same fabric in dark red, old gold or deep sludgy green.

And it was evident in the exuberance with which the clothes were trimmed. There was much fur (Jasper Conran's sizzling coloured dyed mink collars on simple dark flannel suits) and fake fur (Sheridan Barnett's natural coloured imitation Persian lamb on a magnificent brown or black velvet greatcoat, part of a brilliantly controlled collection). Tweed was fringed by both John McIntyre and Paul Costelloe and frills were applied in some abandon by Body Map and Katharine Hamnett.

Everywhere prints dazzled: from Betty Jackson's scribbled prints, through the florals which Wendy Dagworthy mixed brilliantly with tweed and Roland Klein layered with stripes and checks and Sue Clowes used on shiny evening velveteen, to Jean Muir's elegant white on black dancing legs motif and Body Map's explosion of occult symbols by print-designer, Hilde Smith.

very rich and rewarding cake.

It started well with the Individual Clothes Show, a marathon showcase for 44 young designers of widely varying styles, talents and standards of make. Several top American journalists had skipped the last few shows in Milan to attend, a significant indication of the shift in fashion's pecking order. Nor were they disappointed.

The first garments on to the runway were Darlajane Gilroy's swirling Russian Steppes coats trimmed at collar and cuffs with fake Persian lamb, followed by Giuseppina de Camillo's equally dramatic greatcoats. Elaine Chaloner's slender well tailored coats and suits in lovely navy pinstripe wool overprinted with the outlines of flowers, and Sally Mee's dashing equestrian look.

The most impressive thing about this season's Individual Clothes Show was the very high standard of both make and styling. There is nothing about the majority of the young designers whose work was on show: they are intensely professional and purposeful. I have already staked my reputation on Darlajane Gilroy's long-term success; after this week I'll let it ride on Elaine Chaloner as well.

What is important about the London fashion scene is the ease with which new designers, or old ones seeking to re-establish a high profile, can bring themselves to the attention of critics and entrepreneurs alike. There is an openness to London fashion week which is simply not there in Milan, Paris or New York where huge corporate buyers tend to call the tune and programme the shows.

So John McIntyre, who showed his first own-label collection last October, was this week able to consolidate his position with a stunningly beautiful collection and John Rocha, a Hong Kong born designer who works in Ireland, was able to make his bid for fame with a rapturously received first London show. In the manner of Paul Costelloe who also works in Ireland, he exploited Donegal's superb tweeds, layering them with luxurious knits, golden sheepskins and cream mohairs.

The established stars of British fashion — Betty Jackson, Wendy Dagworthy, Michiko Koshino, Zandra Rhodes and Katharine Hamnett — performed well up to expectation. Jasper Conran, who has in the past, to my taste, at least, erred on the side of safety, stopped pussyfooting and freed his imagination. And a formidable imagination it proved to be. He put huge shot taffeta raincoats in bronze, dull gold or dark red over wonderful skinny black jersey hooded tops and superbly cut ski pants. He cut charcoal leather to swirl effortlessly above tapered trousers. He piled on searing me-

hairs in hot orange, pink and scarlet and made wool crepe dresses of a fluidity only excelled by the mistress of such arts, Jean Muir. She herself produced a vintage collection, lean and easy and revelling in colour. Her long, loose cashmere sweaters over cropped wool

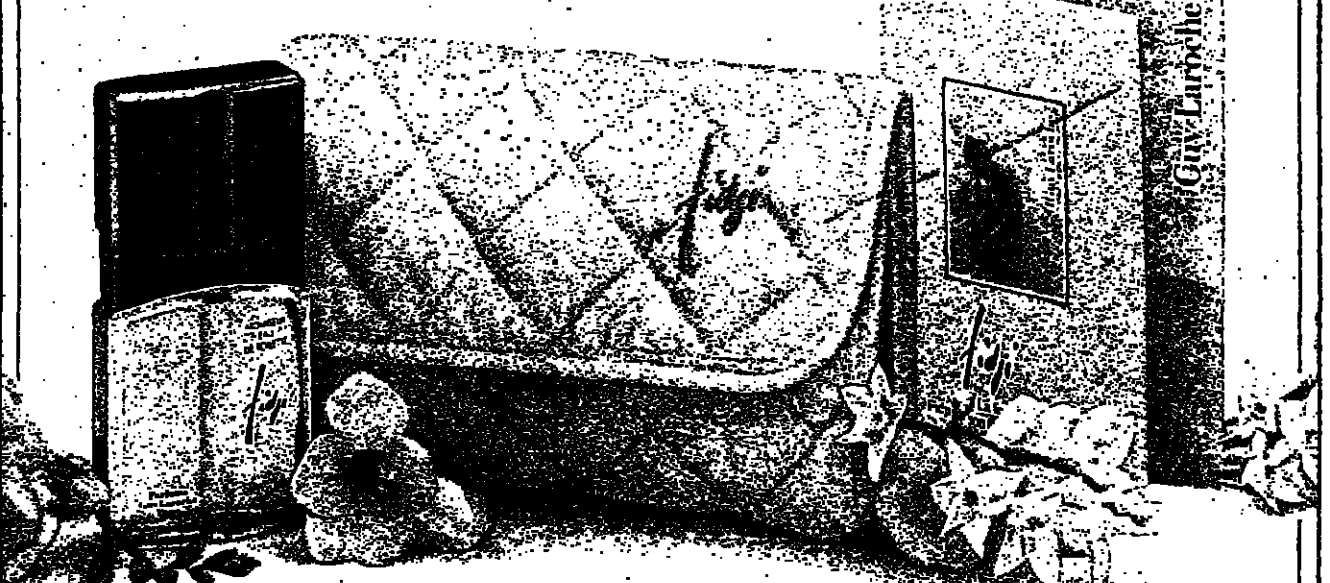
crepe pants brought covetous gasps from the audience. Bill Gibb, the master of the decorative, showed for the first time in many years, opening with simply cut, richly coloured knitted suits and throws, the result of his collaboration with Kaffe Fassett, and closing with a

series of fairy-tale exercises in the baroque, the beaded and the burrished. The glowing richness of Kaffe Fassett's colours were matched by those of Jane Foster and Patrick Gottelier at Artwork who produced a fabulous collection which was renaissance in mood,

conjuring to mind a herald's tabard, a Tudor lord's swirling surcoat. It is a look and a mood which has enormous appeal for the British: judging by the order books of the designers showing this week, it holds a fair attraction for the rest of the world, too.

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FIDJI EXCLUSIVELY FROM PARFUMS GUY LAROCHE, PARIS.

Reducing low pay hardly the answer

If Mr Lawson's Budget for jobs has failed to quell fears of rising unemployment, will the abolition of wages councils do any better? The Government is about to publish a green paper on the subject following a clear hint in the Budget speech from the Chancellor that his own view was that wages councils destroyed jobs. Wages councils fix minimum rates for about 2.7 million workers, predominantly women, in sectors like clothing, catering and agriculture. Rates are already low (like £47.50 for a 40 hour week for an adult shop assistant).

No one denies that there is scope for reform in some areas. It is not necessarily desirable or necessary for school-leavers to move straight into jobs with adult rates. There is no doubt that there are a number of small firms who would take on more people, perhaps the second wage earners of a household (male or female) if wages were more "flexible" (ie, lower). What is astonishing is that the abolition of wages councils is slowly being elevated into a major instrument of policy. It is a sign of the poverty of the Government's approach to reducing the 3 to 4 million unemployed that it is now aiming its guns at the poorest wage earners in the community.

Obviously, reducing already low earnings will of itself actually reduce the incentive to work which the Budget was aiming to increase. The policy presumably rests on the assumption that there are myriad incipient small employers (already in receipt of unprecedentedly generous tax incentives to start new businesses or expand) only waiting for yet lower wages to get going. Is this really a plausible, let alone a fair, scenario? Are low wage jobs really those that are going to catapult Britain into restoring lost competitiveness or is it just, as Mr Roy Matherley claimed yesterday, to substitute working poverty for unemployment poverty? How odd is the Government's dogged insistence that the only way to increase work incentives is to increase incomes at the top end and reduce them at the bottom end where near poverty wages are being paid anyway.

Over 40 per cent of the benefits of income tax changes since 1979 are reckoned to have accrued to one per cent of taxpayers with no obvious — in terms of reducing unemployment — effect. The process of

feathering the rich was taken further in the Budget with yet more relaxations in capital gains tax and other allowances. Now the Government seems poised to reintroduce unfettered competition for wages at the bottom end of the market which could reproduce the sort of unacceptable working conditions which spawned the trade union movement during the excesses of the Industrial Revolution. There is, however, one link between pay and jobs which almost everyone from the independent National Institute to the Treasury computer are agreed on. It is that if (and it is a very big "if") you could restrain wages throughout the economy then it would be possible to expand growth without the danger of running into a fresh surge of inflation. The trouble is that the Government has failed, even with its fierce financial policies, to bring average earnings in manufacturing below 8½ per cent. One way of trying to achieve growth without inflation is, of course, to introduce an incomes policy. This is still the vice that dare not speak its name in Whitehall. But its attractions do not diminish as each new desperate measure is introduced by the Government to tackle the problem of unemployment which refuses to go away.

Vacuum begins to approach

The old man can still do it in a crisis. Take the most unpropitious of circumstances. A Senate in open budgetary revolt, palpably hostile to more defence spending. A missile — the MX — utterly discredited as anything but a symbol. A long awaited resumption of arms control talks which ought (if they were sensible) to strike MX from the board early on. And yet the President of the United States, urgently muscling, earnestly lobbying, can produce a surprisingly decisive vote in his favour, using the hoarsest argument in the book: deny this year's MXs and it will be a signal of weakness as we sit down to talk with the Russians.

But, curiously, the question on the day after is not how the venerable magician pulled it off, but how many more times he can manage it? Early in a second triumphant term, buoyed by a sweeping electoral mandate, the President of the United States should not, in fact, be having to work so hard. Didn't the people of the United States vote, amongst other things, to deploy MX only four months ago? And isn't there, for heaven's sake, a Republican majority in the Senate?

None of the answers to such questions,

of course, are simple ones. But there is a broad theme behind them that can't, for much longer, be ignored. Mr Reagan himself has no more electoral battles to wage. He is twenty years older than the new leader of the Soviet Union. Very soon — on all past precedent — the 1988 contenders for his chair will begin to slide out of the woodwork. In the Democratic camp, indeed, they are already on the plate-supper circuit, making speeches, pumping hands. The moment when George Bush and Jack Kemp and Howard Baker — to name but three — begin to distance themselves from Mr Reagan will not be long delayed.

If the President were younger, likely to end his spell in office with vigour and some continuing influence, then the equation might be slightly different. But most Washington observers now see the time scale as short, and contracting. The portents for the economy are ominous enough: a surging dollar ebbing swiftly back in the face of mountainous debts and mountainous imports. A definitive reverse here will not be recoverable. But the stripping of his trusted and experienced staff has also left Ronald Reagan vulnerable. Why — as in Toronto — does he keep making hawkish speeches which run clearly at odds with the thrust of his present foreign policy? Because he's got a new speech writer. Why has he — vainly — invested so much personal prestige in attempting to convince Congress that the Contra guerrillas of Nicaragua are the modern equivalent of America's "founding fathers"? Same answer. You should never write Mr Reagan off. He is a formidable politician. But — as ever — luck and touch have combined to build reputation. Because of his age and circumstances, he has always been hugely vulnerable to that luck running out. Missile by missile, argument by argument, the President can still just manage to use his clout on the (traditionally easier) issues of national defence. But MX, in truth, was too much of a sweat and strain. Watch this space. It is a vacuum of power, growing nearer.

Transfer terms do not reassure

Were we seeking the synopsis for a movie entitled *The Revenge of the Chaps* then yesterday's governmental observations on the eighth report from the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee would provide a useful starting point. The all-party committee, reporting last autumn, suggested a tightening of the rules which govern the movement of senior civil ser-

vants into the private sector. The report noted "the increasing closeness and independence between government and the private sector" and added that "the traditional independence and impartiality of the Civil Service is in danger of becoming eroded or compromised in the eyes of the public" as a result. The committee cited the fact that between 1979 and 1983 1,809 officers and civil servants, 1,404 of them from the Ministry of Defence, applied for business appointments. Only 15 were rejected.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Conservative) who is hardly a radical but who does have a neat turn of phrase, summed up the committee's position by talking of the danger of "subliminal corruption." And that, in "the eyes of the public," is what it is all about. Old Boys, not a whisper of anything underhand about them, moving on and moving up. The customer becoming the supplier.

The Government's observations make much of two points: the principle of the maximum possible freedom of movement (a matter of personal liberty and of "economic and other benefits of interchange") and the need to avoid what is described as "suspicion of impropriety." From which position it is but an easy (and uncontested) step to note that the Commons committee found no evidence of impropriety (correct) and that, therefore, precious little needs to be done (incorrect). Which is to muddle two fundamental points. It is indeed in the interest of personal liberty and, equally important, in the interest of open and efficient government that there should be the widest possible interchange between the Civil Service and industry. That interchange should not be impeded by malicious implications of impropriety or even of subliminal corruption.

It is precisely to avoid such implications that a coherent code of conduct is needed and that the maximum two year delay upon senior civil servants taking jobs in the private sector should be raised to five years as the Commons committee suggested. Senior civil servants take with them, upon retirement, very generous pensions. That should be, in good part, to compensate them for an inability to maximise their post-retirement earnings. The reasonable mobility of genuinely Good Chaps demands tougher rules. The Government has failed to recognise the problem.

The case for a prompt start

The Chancellor rose to his feet at 3.52 pm, the latest start of recent years. By which time the Budget Bill had been de-

bated and had won a second reading by 103 votes to four. The bill was of course mischievous: it was designed to delay the start of the Budget speech and allow its author, the left-wing Labour MP Mr Dennis Canavan, to enjoy the rare experience of a Parliamentary audience approaching a full house.

The Budget speech is always scheduled for 3.30 on a Tuesday afternoon, but not since 1981 has it started on time. Each year since 1981 has it started late. It has exploited a backbench MP (Labour) has exploited a Parliamentary procedure to allow the Chancellor an extra 10 to 20 minutes to hone or alter his speech. Usually the device employed is the 10 Minute Rule Bill, which allows an MP to introduce a short bill (which will probably go through on the nod (a vote on such a day is time wasting) and seldom be heard of again).

So last year Mr Allen McKay sought concessionary TV licences for pensioners; in 1983 Mr Edmund Marshall wanted an annual review of the broadcasting of Parliament; and the previous year Mr Dan Dixon demanded the statutory disclosure of the names of firms which paid employees below the wages councils minimum rate. 1981 was prompt kick-off year but in 1980 Mr Stan Thorne used the other Parliamentary device to delay the Budget speech. He employed the standing order which allows an MP the chance to persuade the Speaker that a matter is so urgently important that it requires an emergency debate. This week's Budget start was the latest because Mr Canavan's bill went to a vote. So for 20 minutes or so poised presenters in radio and television studios had to flannel, city analysts reflected that they might have taken a longer lunch and the world's stock markets went on to hold. Mr Canavan, enjoying his moment, expressed pleasure at the large Commons attendance for his speech presenting his bill.

All good fun, no doubt, and much enjoyed on the Labour benches. But another example of the kind of Commons silliness which does little to arrest the diminishing esteem in which the public holds Parliament. Surely, on this one big day, our elected representatives could agree among themselves to put aside the childish things and let the Chancellor get on with his speech at the pre-ordained hour. It would require a minor alteration to the standing orders of the House, and would therefore have to go to the Select Committee on Procedure, a body of senior MPs. No doubt the great traditionalists and defenders of the rights of backbenchers, like Mr Michael Foot and Mr Enoch Powell, would oppose such a step and talk of slippery slopes. But the country at large, not to mention Mr Dimbleby and Sir Alastair, would welcome a piece of far from revolutionary Parliamentary common sense.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How the health maintenance organisations choose the patients they wish to treat

Sir, — Your report on Whitehall's interest in health maintenance organisations (HMOs) shows that the Government is intent on eroding the NHS.

HMOs have found some supporters in Britain, from Professor Alan Maynard who claims to be "non-political" to the Adam Smith Institute which doesn't claim to know much about health care but knows what it likes.

Prof Maynard, who until recently declared that supporters of the private marketplace in health care were naive, now apparently thinks this approach will reduce costs. HMOs have introduced a 40 per cent saving on North American Blue Cross schemes, he tells us. But he fails to tell us that they are twice as expensive as the NHS per patient treated; nor does he mention the many scandals associated with them during Ronald Reagan's days as governor of California.

HMOs are responsible for patients only on a year-by-year basis; if you are too expensive to treat, out you go. And of course, they do not enrol people who are already sick. In this respect they are just like BUPA, which is likely to be the main beneficiary of such a substandard approach.

Sincerely,
Geoff Rayner,
9 Dalesbury Road,
London SW 17.

Sir, — Michael Meacher is wrong when he says (letters March 13) supplementary benefit single payments by cheque direct to the retailer are illegal. If he

A critical dressing down

Sir, — Robin Denselow may now be in the early male menopause, but he writes and reviews in stunning style, changing no doubt from tight black pants to quite remarkable brief, fluffy, white V-fronts or shorts slit to the buttock to show off the best legs in musical criticism.

A COUNTRY DIARY

DEVON: The first period of Arctic weather was followed by deceptive mildness and up to that time little damage had occurred in the garden. The second spell, when even favourably-situated Chiverton reported minus 10 degrees Centigrade, was intensified by the flow easterly gale (fushas which normally serve the Devonian winter of the open, together with an azeles, one of the large Hypericum Rowallans and many more tender plants, appear to be dead. A frog or frogs were thought to be in the pond, being uncertain of the ability of the amphibian to tolerate imprisonment under ice, I kept a part of

turns to the SB (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1981, as amended, he will find that under Regulations 7 and 25 the secretary of state may make payment in any manner he thinks appropriate, and may direct that the amount shall be paid to the person who supplied the item.

However Mr Meacher is absolutely right when he decries the system of issuing vouchers, or direct Giro, as degrading and humiliating. It is the state's way of saying we cannot trust these awful people who are claiming benefits.

If reports we read are true, this system could disappear when single payments are abandoned. Then the poorest in our society will no longer be able to afford televisions and videos, or to replace those other luxuries such as beds, bedding, clothes, cookers and furniture. They will have to stand on their own feet, if only because they will have nowhere to sit. — Yours faithfully,
Ian McRobert,
115 Park Road,
Peterborough.

Sir, — The suggestion that doctors should be paid by vouchers presents many possibilities.

By buying enough matches I can at present obtain free flower and vegetable seeds. Why shouldn't business similarly link itself up with the medical and surgical professions?

With, say, 10 tea-packet labels one could receive a

The only slight disappointment in a stunning review (Arts Guardian, March 16) is his level of comment, reflected in his lacklustre, his prudent interest in what Tina doesn't wear, and his rampant, totally unacceptable sexism. Jenny Oldfield,
Ilkley, W. Yorkshire.

free injection; with 40 cereal tokens a free simple operation, such as an appendectomy, the most expensive brain surgery could be offered with a Rolls-Royce. We can even envisage the Benson and Hedges heart transplant or the Nat West baby.

General Booth asked why the devil should have all the good tunes: it may equally be queried why sport should have all the generous sponsors. — Yours, etc,
R.J. Billington,
5 The Park,
Frensham, Bristol.

Sir, — David Hencke knows, because we told him so, that our regional strategy is not "aimed at saving £47 million."

Some £29 million has to be redistributed to the North of England, but our main effort is to improve all our services to our customers by 1984. Not only will we boost the priority services, but we will strengthen the existing acute services.

He fails to mention the great achievements made by the NHS over recent years on treating patients more efficiently, given us the opportunity to make these real advances in priority care over the next 10 years, as well as to improve our acute services.

Mr Hencke also knows that the shift in styles of care will mean that a large proportion of the jobs lost by the NHS can be expected to be recreated in the community, where more skilled staff will be needed to provide a comprehensive network of services for patients at present in hospital.

This authority is committed to a measured and efficient transfer of long-stay patients into community care facilities that meet their individual needs. We accept that takes detailed and careful planning. — Yours faithfully,
David Kenny,
North West Thames Regional Health Authority,
London W2.

Why then, are we failing to stem the tide of aggressive misdemeanours? The fact is that the social re-education required will be a long, drawn-out, costly process.

After 40 years' experience in psychiatry I believe the overwhelming cause of delinquent behaviour springs from the fact that many mothers (and fathers) nowadays do not give their children the amount of their-

(Dr) Shirley G. Ratcliffe,
Edinburgh.

Sir, — Mr Roberts (Letters, March 12) should know better than to use reasoned argument in his dispute about English grammar with Lord Winstanley. Traditional English grammar — largely an 18th-century invention — is one of those absurd institutions, like the House of Lords, that the English love to preserve, but which do no harm because no one takes them seriously. Trying to discredit it in the eyes of its proponents is like trying to convince members of the Flat Earth Society that the earth is round: they really believe, like Lord Winstanley that it is the other fellow who cannot think clearly.

(Prof) F. R. Palmer,
University of Reading.

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BRIAN CHUGG.

Miscellany at large

Sir, — It is interesting to recall that some of the Swann report's recommendations (Guardian, March 15) are similar to those put forward 30 years ago by a Unesco committee.

I was a member of a small delegation who went to see the then Under-Secretary of State for Education, Sir Edward (later Lord) Boyle in order to persuade him that action on the lines of the Unesco recommendations should be taken in Britain.

We were told that the minister was of the opinion that there was no "race problem" in Britain and that, even if it were desirable to adopt the policies in question, the Department of Education had no power to influence the curriculum of English schools. Will the present minister take the same short-sighted view as his predecessor?

(Prof) Anthony Richmond,
Oxford.

Sir, — If we are going to be that pedantic, Michael J. Smith (letters, March 19) is incorrect in claiming that the new Soviet leader's name should be pronounced "Gorbachev". Surely, he knows that only pre-tonic "o" in Russian are pronounced as "a's. Pre-tonic "o's" are pronounced as the "e" in the French, me, ie, A pleasant role of the "e" not overdone, and the short "e" would give the closest approximation to the Russian. — Yours,
(Dr) Jessie Davies,
Fresfield, Liverpool.

Sir, — Your report (January 30) on the Royal Australian Commission and the British nuclear test veterans, referred to my criticism of the inquiry set up by the Government through the National Radiation Protection Board: this is to deal with death certificates only, and will not cover the problem of a possible increase in congenital malformations among the veterans' children. I wish to emphasise that this is my personal opinion and does not represent the view of the medical Research Council.

(Dr) Shirley G. Ratcliffe,
Edinburgh.

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The burgeoning fears about star wars

Sir, — Dissenting experts are probably correct to insist that President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative will never be able to neutralise safely a full Soviet missile attack on the United States. What then is the real justification for the intended expenditure?

Perhaps the answer is to be found by considering the SDI as part of America's attempt to obtain an unanswerable first-strike capability against the Soviet Union. It might indeed render the US invulnerable if it had to deal only with those missiles the Soviet Union would be capable of launching after a determined US first strike against its silos and command centres.

Traditionally an unanswerable first strike has been dismissed as fanciful because the "opponent" would retain his "invulnerable" submarine-based ballistic missiles. This argument is failing rapidly because it ignores the recent remarkable advances in American anti-submarine warfare.

If the SDI is part of an at-

tempt to obtain a virtual monopoly of strategic nuclear options, the implications for world peace should be clear.

The Soviet Union will not, nor can it be expected to, stand idly by. The evolving US technology may force it to adopt counter-measures such as launch-on-warning or even fail-early systems where missiles take off if they do not receive the appropriate signal which would take us much nearer the nuclear abyss.

In Europe — which, despite Caspar Weinberger's platitudes — would not be behind the US Shield proponents of deterrence fear the SDI is destabilising, and supporters of Nato's reliance on the United States fear it may be decoupling.

Conscious of these fears Mr Thatcher faced the American "big stick" diplomacy on the SDI in the only way she could by giving reluctant support to research but not deployment. But this is absurd: the Americans have not failed to deploy advantageous new technology; indeed, they have often in-

vented requirements in order to deploy weapons.

Mrs Thatcher has scarcely concealed her own unease, nor can she quieten the unease of many of her British and European colleagues. As the Geneva arms talks begin Europe has the opportunity to help nip the SDI in the bud by a united insistence that America negotiate it in earnest. It is profoundly to be hoped that deployment does not occur. — Yours faithfully,
S. R. Gogwortz,
4 Kirk Avenue,
Kegworth, Derby.

Sir, — As Belgium takes cruise and Sir Geoffrey Howe, diplomatically, stutters grave doubts about star wars, it is worth recalling the huge gulf opening up between the US and Western Europe.

In recent correspondence with the Foreign Office, I pointed to this gulf. I cited Sir Geoffrey, speaking in November 1984, "The 1979 dual track decision on INF was taken... in reaction to the threat posed by a

developing Soviet monopoly in intermediate-range weapons. The build-up has continued."

I then pointed out that this rationale for cruise, also cited by the Maertens government, has been contradicted by General Rogers. In March 1983 he baldly told the Senate Armed Services Committee: "Most people believe that it was because of the SS-20s that we modernised... we would have modernised irrespective of the SS-20s."

The Foreign Office reply to me typifies our blind servitude: "there is nothing further that I can usefully add to the Government's position on defence and disarmament..."

Is it just possible that Sir Geoffrey's little whippersnappers in different areas signal the end of this servility and eventually a howl of rage and a refusal to have anything to do with US "defence" policies? — Yours faithfully,
Andrew Riddell,
5 Hazel Close,
Marple, Cheshire.

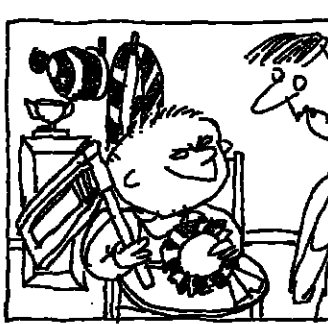
Why we're generations away from ending football violence

Sir, — "Soccer thugs... violence by fans... penalties to reflect society's abhorrence of serious crime at football matches": such epithets, though understandable, are unlikely to point the way to any long-term answer to the problems of hooliganism.

Penalties fail to take account of the underlying causes of delinquency and of the environmental pressures on youngsters in inner cities, to which our juvenile courts have paid close attention over many years.

Why then, are we failing to stem the tide of aggressive misdemeanours? The fact is that the social re-education required will be a long, drawn-out, costly process.

After 40 years' experience in psychiatry I believe the overwhelming cause of delinquent behaviour springs from the fact that many mothers (and fathers) nowadays do not give their children the amount of their-



time and of themselves which earlier generations did. Too often the child is bought off with material presents.

A colleague once said to me: "You cannot punish an animal unless you have a relationship with the animal." Children who are deprived of love at home are often unable to make adequate relationships, and punishment may do little more than heighten resentments.

Modern attitudes can be altered only by increasing awareness among adults of the creative potentials within themselves. It is the methods of the child guidance clinic, the school psychological service, and the cultural qualities of the school itself which will help the young towards a balanced maturity.

Such lengthy and not inexpensive ways of handling children are the only means whereby the alterations in

personality, which we seek, can be achieved. The best policy is to spread enthusiasm for the psychological education, and sometimes treatment, of more and more children.

We should immediately inaugurate a couple of pilot systems in different areas to run over a period of 15 or 20 years. — Yours sincerely,
(Dr) David T. MacLay,
(Consultant in Children's Psychiatry),
15 Frier Hill Road,
Birmingham.

Sir, — I dislike Thatcherism and I dislike football hooliganism. It seems fatuous, however, to blame the latter on the former (cf. letters, March 18). Unacceptable crowd behaviour at football matches became a phenomenon in the sixties, long before Thatcherism. — Yours faithfully,
Alan Street,
73 Walsingham Road,
Sudbury, Suffolk.

When all the shadow ministers share a single photocopier

Sir, — It is quite ludicrous to lay blame for the inadequate facilities at the House of Commons on the American student researchers (Guardian, March 8).

The facilities at Westminster have been woefully inadequate for decades, and the responsibility for that must lie with the MPs themselves. It is they who have the clout, the wit, and intelligence to press for change. Are they not the most self-opinionated, committed, earnest, idealistic, arrogant, pushy group of people in the country?

I fear that the main reason they have failed to accomplish anything concrete

is because for them the problem is far less acute than it is for their staff and secretaries (of which I am one). An MP spends only 34 to four days a week, 40 weeks of the year, at Westminster.

It is his or her secretary, his or her staff, who suffer far more from the inadequacies; it is they who actually use the facilities. But they have been given no means of asking for better facilities: they are not represented on any of the administration and facilities committees.

The supplier of the stationery (called the "Ser-

jeant at Arms Stores") stocks items which are more relevant to the MP of the 19th century, who conducted his own correspondence. The nearest source of such advanced technology as staplers, ballpoint pens, and clear plastic folders is three-quarters of a mile away: an ordinary retail stationer in Victoria Street.

There is only one elementary photocopier for the use of the whole of the Labour Party Shadow Cabinet and its staff. And that Front Bench team occupies one small corridor of 18 offices each 15-by-8ft, shared with their secretaries and researchers.

To blame American student researchers for inherent, structural, chronic, ancient, self-consciously traditional deficiencies is as shameful as it is funny. They cannot even be called the straws that break the camels' back.

Over the past 18 months I have met 20 or more American students here (mainly working for Labour MPs). They all make a contribution at least as useful as that of their British colleagues. To send them all home tomorrow would only exacerbate the problem. Margaret Fryer, Middleton Grove, London N7.

FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Thursday March 21 1985

AT THE heart of a programme now agreed by EEC ministers to accelerate the progress of European industry in biotechnology is a requirement that existing collections of microbes of all kinds should be co-ordinated and given new technical support.

Implicit in this requirement is the recognition, some might say belated recognition, that the identification of existing organisms, their capabilities and stability, forms a crucial component of the platform from which new biotechnologies will take off. No less important is the management and propagation of organisms of cells of specific properties in culture centres set up to meet the dual requirements of research and industrial support.

It was with exactly this in mind for example, that the National Collection of Animal Cell Cultures was recently established with a department of industry support at Porton. Among other things such a centre is essential as an authority and repository for cells at the heart of industrial patents.

Biotechnology is changing rapidly and the Porton centre is an indication of this change. It was thought in the early days that because, if you want some specific product you can usually find a species of bacterium that will make it, then bacteria with suitable genetic manipulations would form the bedrock of new processes.

The bedrock proved unpredictable in the sense that bacteria, especially engineered bacteria, are not particularly stable in use and may be unstable in storage. Storage, in this context, means preservation at the temperature of liquid nitrogen (minus 196°C) and the storage process involves rapid freezing and thawing whose effects on individual cell types are unknown until they are investigated.

The science of cryobiology has grown out of the need to understand the effects of freezing on living tissues and has achieved some notable successes. It is one pillar of the new biotechnologies and, as such, has revealed that animal cells form a potential basis for industrial biotechnology that may be more attractive in some ways than bacteria. But both it and biotechnology are beginning to range into wider fields.

There are on earth a huge number of unicellular organisms, often complex, which occupy the kingdom of the protista and which are divided broadly into the algae and the protozoa. The algae are most familiar as seaweeds, the giant members of an enormous group of organisms of which most are microscopic and of which many are capable of carrying out chemical syntheses either with or without the aid of light energy.

The protozoa are broadly distinguishable in that their processes are not those of plants but their physiology and shifts with discovery and might best be described as a vast collection of nucleated unicellular organisms whose extent is as agreed by protozoologists, giving rise to more than 100,000 species. It is the fact that this group of organisms plays an enormously important role in nutrient recycling on earth, is ubiquitous, and is virtually uninvestigated as a basis for industrial processes.

The algae and the protozoa, in all likelihood, the large areas of research toward their ultimate exploitation in biotechnology. Surprisingly, some algae have been found to be stable in cryostorage and are already known to produce substances of potential importance. Some common protozoa — and the protozoa like most algae are microorganisms — have been found to dominate the biomass of the deep oceans where it has suddenly become apparent that they are probably as important as bacteria in nutrient recycling.

Other protozoa, at least according to some very sound looking Russian research, appear to be a reservoir of viruses and may, therefore, play a role in disease that is quite distinct from their known spore-like role as parasites, such as the



A scientist at the Culture Centre for Algae and Protozoa in Cambridge working with algal cultures preserved at liquid nitrogen temperature

Britain has the opportunity to play a leading role in the search for new kinds of microbe-based technology. Anthony Tucker on a looming crisis in perception

The culture club

trypanosomes. Further, the protozoa are being looked at seriously as indicator organisms for toxicity testing, are being recognised as important in the maintenance of good cell structure where, as in the oceans, their role in nutrient recycling may be crucial.

Much closer to industry or, at least, to our industrial future, the research revealing that algal and other types of cell, when immobilised on a suitable inert substrate, are capable of carrying on their synthesising processes for months or even, in some cases, for years. Vast new enterprises will eventually rest on these novel foundations.

All this, together with the visionary EEC programme, demonstrates that Britain and Europe need — as a matter of urgency — a research-based centre for algae and protozoa. By a minor miracle of historical accident Britain, alone in Europe, has

at Cambridge precisely such a centre. Built around an algal collection that started in Europe before the war, it now houses about 2,000 species, some in continuous culture and others in cryostorage, together with a small scientific staff expert in the investigation and management of these special cultures.

Over the past couple of decades the Culture Centre for Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) has played a central role in the development of cryostorage together with research into the structural characteristics which distinguish those organisms with natural properties that protect them against damage during freezing.

The centre currently has a Department of Industry contract covering some aspects of this research, an indication of its practical relevance. This type of research involves a high level of struc-

tural investigation that is itself now inseparable from species identification — an aspect of taxonomy which tends to be forgotten — and merges directly into functional and metabolic studies of individual species and strains.

The centre is currently involved in the organisation of an international meeting which, at the end of the month, will throw out some of the knotty problems that mark the way forward for research in cryobiology.

From all this it would seem that CCAP is better placed and better fitted than any other unit in Europe to develop, over the next few years, as an innovative and supportive institute whose links with industry will be vital in opening up new and huge territories in practical biotechnology. In this the culture collection and its associated research are inseparable. That this is so is reinforced

by current research at which the Cambridge centre in which algae are being screened for particular metabolic products, such as natural pigments or polysaccharides. Polysaccharides are produced by some algae in copious amounts, probably to help them move around, for these long-chain molecules are already important in industry as additives capable of inducing substantial reductions in drag in pipelines and elsewhere. They are also seen as a way of getting more oil out of ageing wells.

The potential importance of algae is that some species produce very large amounts of specific polysaccharides in the dark and on a feedstock which is as lean as tapwater without the chlorine. The industrial implication is clear and looks even larger when it is realised that the range of materials synthesised by single-cell organisms

is huge if imperfectly known. It is in this critically important area, whose boundaries are unknown, that the CCAP could play a role whose importance far outweighs its scale of research effort.

The Cambridge unit is formally part of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology which exists, as part of the Natural Environment Research Council, to carry out the research on living systems that is necessary to ensure that we use resources wisely and without environmental damage. Since you cannot investigate living systems without knowing what is there, investigative classification has a critical role which, currently, is carried by many units including CCAP.

It is very easy to imagine that we already know all that is needed to be known about living systems. The hard fact is that at the present time barely 50 per cent of the smaller organisms are known

and of these many life cycles remain uninvestigated. In this area alone an enormous task still lies ahead.

The crucial involvement of this generally neglected area of biology with the future of new industrial technologies is now generally recognised, and it might be thought that the future of CCAP is not only assured but likely to be very vigorous, creative and important to the nation. Yet, on the face of things, this may be far from the real situation. Research, these days, is full of administrators forced into a position in which damaging cuts are inescapable because of shortage of money. CCAP, for reasons which seem penny-pinching, has never attained what scientists call the "critical mass" of a research organisation of its kind. In its present form, because of the lack of some areas of expertise, it cannot function fully as an independent investigative unit able to provide much of its own support through commercial exploitation.

Whereas the Natural Environment Research Council is now so desperately short of money that, if its latest policy trends are taken to their logical conclusion, all small and vulnerable units are likely to be closed or dispersed simply as a way of saving money. At this stage nobody knows what will happen to CCAP although everybody knows that, with several other small units, its head is on an unyielding chopping block. Indeed, CCAP has been "under review" for a least a couple of years.

That the threat of closure should exist at all is a national disgrace. It arises, almost inevitably, in all areas, however critical — that bridge the cutting edge of research and industrial innovation. NERC is not in the business of industrial innovation and therefore may be forced into the position in which it will destroy a unique and highly specialised organisation whose supportive and research roles are of great importance now and will be increasingly essential in the future.

Once dispersed, the crucial functions of the Cambridge Centre would wither and die. The special circumstances of their creation may never occur again in this country. In other countries, at this moment, they are being nurtured because their importance is recognised.

The clawing back of money for parochial financial reasons inevitably damages these longer term interests. What is needed now is a full-blooded recognition that centres of this type in general and of the CCAP in particular, are as crucial to our technical and industrial future as they are to our understanding of living systems. Because of their dual value but intermediate position, where neither money for the support of academic research nor direct industrial intervention can provide an adequate basis for their early growth and flowering, they need special attention. This, of course, is exactly what the EEC ministerial agreement says.

Britain therefore has a critical opportunity to show that she recognises the meaning and purpose of the biotechnology initiative and the value of this tiny research centre, currently unique in Europe.

In short, nobody should be threatening CCAP. The departments, NERC and industry should be beavering away to find a means of transforming CCAP into a form in which it will be irresistible as the European centre for algae and protozoa. Such a transition would inevitably involve an expansion of expertise (to take in bacteriology and virology, for example) and imply the presence of attached workers from abroad and from industry.

Once established and functioning it would provide its own drive through a vision and visionary search for contract support. Its future should be seen as important, rich and secure. That it would inevitably turn some good taxonomy would be a bonus rare in Britain.

If we fail to think and perceive on a European scale in relation to the industrial future then, at this highly pressurised time in history, we will rapidly sink.

John Elkington on 'a safe approach' to poison which won an award this week

Waste matters

A WHIFF of almonds. This is often the last sensation reported by those lucky enough to survive poisoning by cyanide gas. Cyanide is a peculiarly nasty chemical, breathe air containing as little as 200,000 parts per million of hydrogen cyanide and you will almost certainly die within the hour.

Yet hydrogen cyanide is an extremely useful industrial chemical, playing a key role in the manufacture of such products as dyes, plastics and synthetic rubber. Furthermore, cyanide salts are widely used in the hardening of iron and steel and in electroplating.

As a result, the country is dotted with tanks and other containers filled with cyanide residues and sludges. Once they would have been dumped in the nearest water but today's environmental regulations have left many companies with a disposal problem.

Now ICI, Britain's largest chemicals company, has good news for them. It has just won one of the latest crop of Pollution Abatement Technology Awards for an economical and effective process it has developed for breaking down cyanides into harmless substances, using an approach taken directly from nature. In fact, for the first time in the history of the awards scheme, one company has won two major awards.

"A range of natural organisms produces cyanide," explains Professor Christopher Knowles of Kent University, whose research sparked ICI's initial interest in cyanide detoxification, "while others are able to degrade it. Twenty per cent of all plants produce cyanide, using it as a defensive mechanism to ward off micro-organisms which would otherwise invade damaged leaves. We knew some fungi and bacteria seemed to be able to get around this defence, by breaking down the cyanide into non-toxic formamide."

This, in essence, is the heart of ICI's cyanide detoxification process, which is based on the use of fungal enzymes.

ICI sees the cyanide market as a platform for launching further bio-products designed to tackle major pollution problems. The company's plant protection division also won an award for its extraordinary Electrolytic Dryer, which dramatically cuts the amount of pesticide needed to protect crops against pests.

The key to the Electrolytic system is what ICI has dubbed the "bozzie", an amalgam of bottle and nozzle, which produces a stream of very fine droplets of pesticide. Normally such fine droplets would cause spray drift, but the bozzie gives the droplets an electric charge, ensuring that they home in on the nearest plant.

The two other major awards went to Vitrix, for a new cost-effective and environmentally safe process for turning deadly asbestos into a non-toxic glass, and to Fender Environmental, for its Potapak water treatment system. Every time people in most parts of the Third World drink water, they literally take their lives in their hands. The chemical waste water pollution in the Third World is not industry, but people and animals.

The Potapak system, built around a cheap but effective slow sand filtration process and backed up with innovative fabric cartridges developed at Surrey University, has proved a dramatic success in field trials in the Peruvian Andes.

The awards scheme, which has been backed from the start by the Guardian, has been a considerable success. "It has established beyond all doubt that we have the ideas," says CBI Director General Sir Terence Seckett. "We cannot afford to be complacent about selling our ideas on the world market. The developed world is environmentally highly-charged at the moment and if we don't take the opportunities which present themselves, our rivals will."

The Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King, who stresses that pollution abatement technology can be "a major source of new business," presented this year's awards on Monday. And, with 1986 now formally declared Industry Year, the hope is that the next crop of entries, which must be in by June 3, 1985, will be of particularly high quality.

The Design Council will feature many of these award-winning technologies and products in a major exhibition in September, 1985. For on one thing all are agreed: "The ingenuity and enterprise shown here should not simply be applauded now and forgotten later," as Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, put it. "They must be exploited to the full by vigorous and effective marketing."

John Elkington is one of the assessors for the Pollution Abatement Technology Awards and the Design Council's consultant on its 1986 exhibition. The 1984 awards booklet and 1985 entry forms are available from: Timothy Cantell, Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6E2.

When a fish on the rocks can mean a pain in the gut

THERE are many different kinds of seafood poisoning, but the most prevalent type found throughout the tropics, from the Caribbean to the Pacific and Indian Oceans, is that known as ciguatera.

Even recorded by Columbus, ciguatera outbreaks were always regarded as a great mystery. Over 400 different species of fish have been incriminated at one time or another, a species being toxic in one area but not in another, even within the same lagoon.

This is the essence of the problem for there is no way of telling which fish may be poisonous and which safe. For the many people for whom fish is a dietary staple, the continuing occurrence of the disease in French Polynesia for example, with a total population of around 150,000, an average of 1,000 cases are reported every year.

One authority on ciguatera is Dr Raymond Bagnis, head of the Medical Oceanographic Unit at the Louis Pasteur Institute in Tahiti. Malariae institute also established the cause of ciguatera.

Dr Bagnis led the team which identified the culprit as a previously unknown dinoflagellate, a unicellular plant similar to a micro-algae.

A creature of the ocean depths, normally only a few of these algae live on the reef, but under certain circumstances their number can increase dramatically. Parrot fish, feed on these toxic algae and so the toxin enters the food-chain. These grazing fish usually live and feed in one small area, so they gradually build up larger and larger amounts of the toxin.

A predatory snapper or grouper then swims into the area and with one bite acquires all the toxicity its herbivorous victim had spent a lifetime collecting. These larger fish can then carry the toxicity to other parts of the reef.

For the last 20 years, all cases of fish poisoning in French Polynesia have been carefully recorded, and Dr Bagnis has been able to draw some interesting conclusions. In every outbreak of ciguatera, some disturbance or damage to the coral reef had occurred in the preceding



Dr Raymond Bagnis: on the trail of an unknown dinoflagellate

year or two. Sometimes this was a naturally occurring event such as a bad storm or cyclone, but more often it was caused by man's interference.

This damage to coral was caused by a variety of activities, from blasting a boat channel or pass through a reef, building quays or breakwaters on live coral, to the dumping of metallic materials or other polluting debris on the reef.

The toxic micro-algae loves to multiply on newly exposed coral surfaces and the cycle leading to ciguatera poisoning begins.

Not everyone eating ciguatera fish has the same symptoms, although vomiting and diarrhoea usually occur within a few hours. Prickling in the fingers and toes, plus a tingling around the mouth are characteristic symptoms of ciguatera poisoning. An alteration of sensation causes

plain water to taste like soda and a shower to feel like pin pricks of tiny electric shocks.

A variety of other symptoms may also occur such as extreme tiredness, itching, muscle and joint pain, a weakened pulse and falling blood pressure. In severe cases, respiratory paralysis leads to death. In most cases, however, the symptoms subside in a few days, although the tingling may continue longer. The current explanation

of the symptoms is that the toxin acts directly at cell level by opening pores in the cell membrane to allow increased numbers of sodium ions to pass into the cell.

There is no treatment for ciguatera except to relieve the symptoms with antihistamines for the itching or aspirin for a lowered pulse. The most successful therapy has been the intravenous injection of calcium gluconate with vitamins B6 and B12. This appears to restrict the passage of sodium by blocking the cell pores opened by the toxin.

Research teams in various parts of the world are still searching for the quick inexpensive test for toxic fish and an antidote to the poison. The main factor hampering research is the unusual nature of the toxin — the main component ciguatera being one of the most active compounds known, even more than the most poisonous snake venom. It is very small and diffused throughout the whole fish, so that up to ten tons of poisonous fish are required to extract a few microgrammes of toxin for laboratory experiments.

Ciguatera is also very different in that it is a fatty substance, whereas most other toxins are proteins, steroid or alkaloid in structure. The main thrust of present research is to determine ciguatera's elusive chemical structure. Once that is known, Dr Bagnis hopes that it can be synthesised, which will open up the possibility of producing an antidote and a more efficient test for poisonous fish.

Meanwhile, the risks can be minimised by gutting a fish as soon as it is caught, not eating the head, liver, roe or viscera as the toxin is concentrated in these organs, and discarding any cooking liquid which may concentrate some water soluble components.

All oversized fish should be treated with suspicion, especially snappers, groupers, jacks, barracudas and moray eels. One message, however, is abundantly clear, every outbreak of ciguatera indicates that something is wrong on the reef. For interfering with the fragile ecosystem of living coral, Nature exacts a certain price.

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TO APPLY: Send S.A.F. to: John Oeler, Employee Resourcing Manager, GUS Catalogue Order Limited, Universal House, Devonshire Street North, Manchester M60 6EL.

If you have already applied to us this year, do not re-apply as your application will be considered separately.

G.U.S. Catalogue Order Limited

Warren Spring Laboratory

Engineer Reclamation and recycling of municipal wastes

To work in a team involved with the processing, reclamation and recycling of municipal and industrial wastes, including energy recovery by production and utilisation of waste derived fuels. You will be expected to develop and apply low cost processes. The work will also involve liaison with senior management in industry and local government.

You should normally have a 1st or 2nd class honours degree or an equivalent or higher qualification in a relevant discipline and have at least 4 years postgraduate experience. Experience of process/combustion/engineering industry advantageous.

Applied Physicist/ Chemist

Provide sensors for UK industry

Lead a team involved in the development and application of novel process control sensors. You will explore new areas of potential industrial value, such as biosensing and on-line Electron Spin Resonance; provide sensors for research; market promising sensors for application and manufacture in the UK industry.

You should normally have a 1st or 2nd class honours degree, or an equivalent or higher qualification, in a relevant discipline and must have at least 4 years postgraduate experience. Industrial experience and an interest in practical applications are desirable.

Appointment for these Stevenage based posts will be as Principal Scientific Officer (£11,795 - £15,675) or Senior Scientific Officer (£9,325 - £12,650). Level of appointment and starting salary according to qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects.

Assistance with relocation expenses may be available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 12 April 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1TB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref. S/6487.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

**Scientific
Civil Service**

Analyst/ Programmers

A two year tax free salary

Saudi Arabia

As one of the most powerful names in aviation worldwide, the name of Lockheed will need no initial introduction. What you may not know is that Lockheed is currently playing a key role in providing transport aircraft together with vital support and training facilities to the Saudi Arabian Air Force. These activities are supported by a compact but powerful DP Centre at the Company's prestigious complex in Riyadh. It is here that we need well-disciplined professional Analyst/Programmers with proven experience to help develop, implement and support a range of applications at our comprehensively equipped IBM 4331/2 installation. This is an opportunity to broaden your experience as well as getting involved with MANTIS 4GL and IBM and HP PCs.

We are particularly interested in your detailed knowledge of systems development and documentation methods and

in your experience with MSA or similar accounting packages. You should also be familiar with DOS/VSE and CICS and experience with ADPS, COBOL, RPG or BAL would be useful but not essential. In addition to the sizable tax free salary, the benefits of joining Lockheed really are exceptional. We will pay for flights, life and medical insurance, first class bachelor accommodation and food. And our recreational facilities are second to none. Many companies offer you a tax free contract in the Middle East - but few (if any) cover your living costs as extensively as Lockheed. Let's talk. Call us in London on 01-831 0089. Alternatively, write to us with your cv at Lockheed Corporation (International) S.A., Alliance House, 29-30 High Holborn, London WC1V 6AK.

Lockheed
EMPLOYMENT BUSINESS

GLC

Working for London

Head of Information Technology

Department of Architecture & Civic Design

A major user of both mainframe and local mini and micro computer facilities, the Department has its own in house Information Technology Unit which specifies, develops and supports applications in C.A.D., Professional Support, Management Information and Office Automation Systems across the broad span of professional activities.

A senior manager with experience in all these applications areas is sought to head the Unit. This post exercises influence over the direction of D.P. and Information Systems with responsibility for the hardware and software facilities. Extensive liaison on the use of new technology is entailed, together with undertaking feasibility studies proposed.

The job demands a sound knowledge of the building/construction industries plus either a background in a large organisation or familiarity with public sector financing/management procedures. The ability to communicate and present complex technical matters effectively is crucial.

Salary: £16,629 - £18,489 inclusive.

For an application form, to be returned by 4th April 1985, write to: Establishment Division, GLC Department of Architecture & Civic Design, Ref. 657, Room 469, North Block, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 2147.

Central Computer Service

A long standing and committed user of advanced hardware and software, the GLC's Central Computer Service has never been slow to respond to technological change. This continues to give rise to new openings for senior computing professionals capable of helping the Council and other public authority users exploit the full potential of these services.

Applications Managers

Experienced data processing managers with a proven background in system implementation and support and capacity to co-ordinate cross-group work programmes, are sought to oversee the direction and implementation of scheme development and maintenance for the Council's main client areas. This will include analysis of equipment/software options and advising management on technical advances.

Each of these three managers takes a lead in a particular applications policy area:

ILEA Computer Services. A member of the ILEA computer management team, this post co-ordinates and integrates all applications work undertaken in support of ILEA administrative processes and oversees the implementation of computer schemes and facilities for the Authority.

GLC Computer Services. Responsible for integration of all non-ILEA production scheme maintenance and for particular features of the development programme. There is also a key consultative role in advising departments of information technology development potential.

London Borough Clients. This post provides the focal point for discussions with the London Boroughs and other external users on the provision of computer services and co-ordinates all applications work and its integration with existing systems to maximise the information available to them.

Salaries: £18,489 - £20,349 inclusive.

Application/Software Group Leader

To manage an analyst/programming group engaged in the development, and maintenance of applications and facilities software. As team head, this post serves as first point of contact for clients and acts as a consultant to user management.

A broad data processing background is required with proven experience in the design, implementation and maintenance of computer applications or proven technical expertise in the development and maintenance of software facilities. Good staff management and communication skills are essential.

Salary: £14,781 - £16,545 inclusive.

For an application form, to be returned by 4th April 1985, write to: GLC Central Computer Services Department, Room 469, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 6082.

The GLC is an equal opportunities employer. We invite applications from women and men from all sections of the community, irrespective of their ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation or disability, who have the necessary attributes to do the job.

These posts are suitable for job sharing

OVERSEAS

HANDCRAFT BUYER

OXFAM Trading contributes its profits to Oxfam - its current sales are about 4.5 million pounds.

The Company, which is based at Bicester near Oxford, seeks a Buyer with several years experience of buying handcrafts from overseas in a wholesale or retail capacity. The post involves the selection and buying of a range of merchandise which is then distributed through a substantial mail order and wholesale business and Oxfam shops.

Salary will commence at £11,151, rising by annual increments to £13,010.

If you are interested in this challenging post please send a stamped addressed envelope to Personnel Department, Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, giving brief details of relevant experience.

Closing date for completed application forms is 14 days after the date of this advertisement.

OXFAM IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

OXFAM

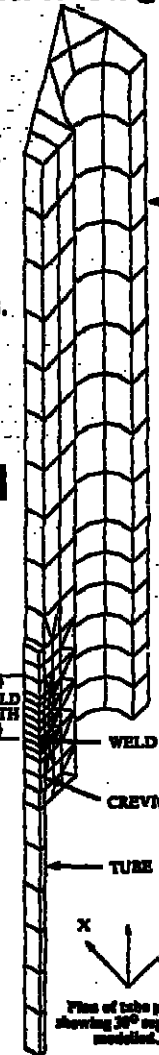
Mechanical Engineers & Physicists

Plant Design, Performance and Structural Integrity
Use your skills to ensure the continuing safety and efficiency of nuclear power for the generations ahead

The overall safety of plant design and structural integrity is fundamental in all fields of engineering but particularly so in the nuclear power industry. The superb record of safety in the industry within the UK bears testimony to the attention paid to this field; to maintain these standards we need staff committed to this aim.

Work at the forefront of Solid and Fluid Mechanics and Physics

The areas of work in which you could be involved include stress analysis, endurance assessment, heat transport, fluid flow, neutron and gamma transport in reactors and shields and criticality. You would play a major part in the technical assessment of the endurance and stability of a wide range of structures, including reactors and plant in operation, analysing experiments and developing and applying large computer codes. The work will require you to liaise closely with and advise other specialists. It also calls for constant attention to commercial and economic viability. In addition to an Honours degree in Engineering or Physics or Corporate Membership of an appropriate senior professional institution, you should have a good theoretical



ability, with proven mathematical modelling skills, plus a practical interest in structural integrity or the application of engineering and physics methods to major projects.

Work in an attractive area

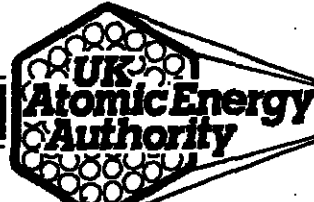
Risley, Cheshire is within easy commuting distance of Manchester and Merseyside as well as the villages of North Cheshire, and the whole area is well served by motorways. Housing is reasonably priced by national standards. Help with relocation is available, in appropriate circumstances.

Salary will normally be on the Professional and Technology Officer Grade II scale £7,405 - £10,880, depending on experience. In addition you will enjoy a first class superannuation scheme, over 4 weeks' holiday plus 10½ days' public and privilege holidays and flexible working hours. Restaurant facilities and a sports and social club are also available - plus the security and career prospects of a major national employer.

Applicants should write quoting reference number S2738/G to the Staff Officer, UK Atomic Energy Authority, Northern Division, Risley, Warrington, WA3 6AT.

OR telephone for an application form Warrington (0925) 573160, our 24 hour answering service, or Warrington (0925) 31244 Ext 2605 or 2649.

Northern Division



Nuclear power development for the nation's needs

TRAINEE REPRESENTATIVES (THROUGHOUT U.K.)

You'll spend four days at one of our training schools (expenses paid plus hotel accommodation if required), followed by four weeks field training under the supervision of a Manager, during which time you will have a draw of £100 weekly and the opportunity to earn a considerable production bonus.

Upon graduation, you will be a fully fledged, independent representative of the world's greatest book publishers—Encyclopaedia Britannica International Limited—and the sky's the limit.

Britannica originated in 1768 and has been the world's leading Encyclopaedia ever since. For 50 years it has been sold direct to the public by men and women from all walks of life, most of whom had no previous experience. Our second-to-none training ensures success. Our sales people work at exhibitions, in-store promotions and shopping malls—as well as following up leads from national newspapers, magazines and drop cards. Our problem is not one of creating demand, but of meeting it. To do this we need to expand.

We look for management ability at an early stage.

Interviews will be arranged locally—but only for those who are seeking a high earning potential in a long-term career and have a current driving licence.

In the first instance, telephone for an appointment as follows:

Edinburgh/Glasgow	Mr. Dickkoss	031-229 5571
Greater Manchester	Mr. Driscoll	0625-526385
Yorkshire South and West	Mr. Dumford	0274-734399
Midlands	Mr. Elvers	021-355 4201
Bristol and West	Mr. Maher	0272-290654
S.E. London/Kent	Mr. Paraskevas	01-680 9229
S.W. London/Surrey/Sussex	Mr. Ritchie	01-680 9229
N. London/Essex	Mr. Iacovou	01-680 9229
N.W. London/Middlesex	Mr. De Mel	01-952 9081
W. and Central London	Ms Mainwaring	01-340 7108

or write to Mr. N. Gordon, Encyclopaedia Britannica International Limited, Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1N 8EB.

Software Development

East Coast USA


Our client, a major electronics company, is currently engaged in the development of an advanced airborne communications system on behalf of the Ministry of Defence and requires a Development Engineer to be resident in the USA, on secondment, for a period of at least one year. The Engineer will be a member of a UK design team within a larger US development environment.

The successful applicant will be qualified to degree standard and have experience of software development using FORTRAN. This position would ideally suit a young graduate wishing to broaden his/her outlook by participating in an exciting development programme and by experiencing life in the USA.

An excellent remuneration package is available including assistance in return to the UK at the end of the tour of duty.

Confidential Reply Service: Please write with full CV quoting reference 1931/JS on your envelope, listing separately any company to whom you do not wish your details to be sent. CVs will be forwarded directly to our client, who will conduct the interviews. Charles Barker Recruitment Limited, 30 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4EA.

CHARLES BARKER
ADVERTISING-SELECTION-SEARCH




INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AND COMMUNICATIONS
EXHIBITION

ADMIT TWO

Show Times: Tuesday 26th March 9.30 to 5.30
 Wednesday 27th March 9.30 to 5.30
 Thursday 28th March 9.30 to 5.30

Come face to face with your future at London's Olympia.



B.E.D. Exhibitions Limited, 44 Wallington Square, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8RG. Telephone: 01-6471001

BUMPING YOUR HEAD ON THE CEILING?

You may not be physically too tall for this to happen. It may feel like it because you have outgrown your present job. The initial challenge which first attracted you has been overcome and there isn't anything very exciting ahead. Except the continual frustration of bumping your head.

You need a change and a new challenge. If you are a control or electrical engineer or you have the right qualifications in other fields to succeed as one, then we may have room for you. We certainly don't have ceilings which are too low.

ICI Engineering Department is unusual. It focuses the engineering thrust of a world group, operating in all the key chemical business areas, more widespread and successful than any other international group. Our engineers cover all the disciplines. This is vital because they only continue to retain ICI's business strictly on merit. That sounds tough but it makes them very special. Only the best get into ICI Engineering. It is a select group and aims to stay that way.

We have a lot of engineering talent but we are always greedy for more. We have opportunities for good people in the key areas of pharmaceuticals and speciality chemicals, bulk and general chemicals. If you find that prospect exciting then you might want to join an outfit where the ceilings are high enough.



Contact John Temple,
ICI Engineering Department,
Northwich, Cheshire,
to find out more.

Engineering
NO CEILING ON CHALLENGE

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

British Railways Board has a firm policy to apply equal opportunities for recruitment, terms of employment and progress throughout the industry. It wishes to ensure that the policy is fully effective and requires a Project Manager to assist in the initiation, promulgation and monitoring of action implementing equal opportunities.

Applicants must have a sound knowledge and understanding of the industrial environment and awareness, and experience of the issues involved. A conviction about the principles and attitudes to be applied is required together with an ability to inspire and influence managers, staff and Trade Unions to make the changes necessary.

Salary to be negotiated.

Applications should be addressed to:
Managing Director, Personnel, British Railways Board, Rail House, Euston Square, P.O. Box 100, London, NW1 2DZ, to arrive by 2nd April 1985.



Principal Financial Assistant

BRISTOL £8,744 - £10,739

We are a new national organisation recently set up to direct training policy developments for staff within the National Health Service.

This post of Principal Financial Assistant offers you an outstanding opportunity to help formulate and run systems across the entire range of the organisation's financial services, utilising the latest technology.

You should have relevant experience and/or be part qualified in accountancy (should you wish to continue studying for full qualifications, assistance will be available).

Relocation expenses will be paid where appropriate.

For an informal discussion about the post, phone Christopher Fewtrell, on 01-928 9035. For an application form, to be returned by April 8th, phone Stephen Greenwood on the same number, or write to him at National Health Service Training Authority, The Royal Eye Hospital Annex, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XG.

(This is a re-advertisement, and previous applicants need not apply).

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE TRAINING AUTHORITY



Senior Technical Writer

c.£13,500 p.a.

IAL Data Communications, based in Basingstoke, are world leaders in the field of specialised voice communications switching systems. Their IALSTRATUS product range has been chosen by Civil Aviation Authorities and governments world wide for air traffic control and command and control applications.

To help us maintain our market lead, we have an immediate requirement for a Senior Technical Writer. Ideally, applicants should possess an Electronics Degree or equivalent but equally important is a minimum of 3 years experience of writing technical handbooks for complex electronic

systems. Specifically, knowledge of modern digital electronics and experience of microcomputing and digital speech techniques would be an advantage.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the writing and production of the department's technical handbooks, both for standard products and specific customer systems. He or she will maintain a technical document library, control the issue of engineering specifications and also be responsible for the supervision of sub-contract work.

To apply please phone the Recruitment Executive or write quoting reference K231.



Data Communications

Aeradio House, Hayes Road,
Southall, Middlesex UB2 5NL. Tel: 01-574 5134.

A MEMBER OF THE STANDARD TELEPHONES AND CABLES PLC GROUP

Systems Programmer for the Starlink Project

The Starlink Project operates 10 VAX computers (six 11/780 and four 11/750) at astronomical centres throughout the UK. Each has substantial memory and disc resources, and a number of graphics devices including colour image displays. The computers are used for astronomical data processing, in particular interactive reduction and analysis of spectra and pictures. The machines communicate with each other via the Joint Academic Network.

Starlink is managed from the node at RAL, which has a VAX-11/780. The successful applicant will work in the Software Group, which is engaged in implementing and supporting a 'software environment' within which astronomical application programs will be run. The work involves a range of software techniques, including language interpreters, databases, graphics and communications.

Applications are invited from professional programmers with a degree in science or computing and a systems background, preferably with VAX/VMS and Fortran. Discipline, self-motivation and the ability to work well with others are all very important. High standards of system design, program coding and documentation are required; some knowledge of astronomical applications programming would be an advantage, as would specialist knowledge in some of the specific techniques mentioned above.

Appointments will be made at Higher Scientific Officer level within the salary range £7435 - £10435 per annum.

The laboratory is a friendly community with its own restaurant and shopping facilities nearby. Our transport covers towns and villages in the area. Excellent working conditions and generous holidays apply. Contact the Recruitment Office, Personnel Group, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QX, or phone 01235 445435 quoting reference VN324. Closing date for applications: 12th April 1985.



Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

TECHNICAL AUTHOR - SOFTWARE

We are the Computing Resource for the Retailing and Wholesaling arms of the Cooperative Movement - a 4½ billion pound business. We provide a highly successful Computing Service to our customers whose businesses cover the Procurement, Manufacturing, Distribution, Marketing and Retailing spectrum.

We have recently embarked upon a substantial development programme encompassing Accounting, Trading, Warehouse and Data Entry Systems, within our Retail Computer Development department, all taking full advantage of the latest hardware technology in an ICL mainframe environment, using the latest software development tools, including JONES, TPMS and DDS.

An essential element of the presentation process for these products will be the provision of accurate and effective User Documentation. We therefore need to appoint a TECHNICAL

c.£11,000



People who care

Manchester

AUTHOR - SOFTWARE who will be responsible for the design, organisation, production, distribution and maintenance of user documentation in support of our new systems. Duties will also include the definition, introduction and control of Documentation Standards and supervision of an existing User Procedures Library.

Applicants will display proven literary skills and additionally have significant experience in any of the following areas:-

- * Organisation and Methods
- * Technical Authorship
- * Data Processing

If you want to find out more about this excellent opportunity, then telephone BRIAN MITCHELL on 061 431 1686 (during the day) or 061 428 8142 (evenings and weekends). Alternatively submit your Curriculum Vitae to him at Computer People North, FREEPOST, Severn House, Stockport Road, Chesida, Cheshire, SK2 2YD.



The Market Leaders

High technologists for advanced flying power exploration

Rolls-Royce never stands still, its very business is about movement, thrust, the exhilarating challenge of problem solving, the exciting and exciting pursuit of excellence in flying power.

New high technology and Rolls-Royce are old partners, for example our Engineering Groups have conceived and co-ordinated the further extension of advanced engineering to complement the automation of the manufacturing process. The Group has also implemented an intensive and extensive programme of digital technology across the whole range of design, development and test facilities, pushing back the frontiers of new technology, many of which we ourselves created just a year or so ago.

At Rolls-Royce, Engineers, Scientists and Technologists have always played a vital role in the development and management of our business. We look to both recently qualified and experienced professional technologists to pursue the exploration of advanced engineering and help us reach the business objectives essential to remaining a world leader.

Collaboration with American and European organisations has opened up even more opportunities in world markets with our RESEARCH, DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL capabilities, making us strong and respected partners and keeping Rolls-Royce as the most exciting name in advanced engineering.

As part of our development plans there are now opportunities for graduates, and those with equivalent academic achievement, in any of the following disciplines:

CONTROL SYSTEMS, MECHANICAL, ELECTRONICS, ELECTRICAL OR AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING, PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS OR COMPUTER SCIENCE.

Those selected would join our Engineering Team and would be based at BRISTOL, DERBY OR LEAVESDEN where our Engineers

and Scientists are involved in a wide variety of projects including:

- innovative long term research
- assessing new technology
- experimental research and development
- technical design
- theoretical modelling

Currently, the posts available are:

AEROTHERMAL TECHNOLOGISTS

Engineers, Mathematicians and Physicists are required to work in the following areas of aerothermal technology:

- Aerodynamics of turbomachines or installations
- Heat transfer and cooling technology
- Computer modelling and computational fluid dynamics
- Noise
- Combustion

STRESS/VIBRATION ENGINEERS

Engineers, Mathematicians and Physicists to work in the field of stress analysis, theoretical and experimental vibration, engine dynamics, aeroelasticity, finite element modelling, component fitting and all aspects of mechanical integrity.

TECHNICAL DESIGNERS

Engineers, Mathematicians and Physicists to work on the development and application of Air Systems, Transmission Systems and Thermal Systems.

PERFORMANCE ENGINEERS

Engineers, Mathematicians and Physicists to work on performance prediction, analysis and monitoring of engine and aircraft performance data.

DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERS

Engineers, Mathematicians and Physicists to work in the development of advanced technology engines and components.

PROGRAMMER MATHEMATICIANS

Applicants with a degree in a numerate discipline to perform the analysis, design and programming of technical computing systems.

CONTROL SYSTEMS ENGINEERS

Control and Electronics Systems Engineers to work on the design of the control systems' hardware and software aspects of digital electronics.

DESIGNERS

Creative engineers with a sound knowledge of the basic engineering principles to work closely with technology groups in establishing the design definition of high technology aero components using CAD/CAM and other computing aids.

Career progression

Regular career reviews ensure that those with ability can progress on either technical or line management career routes. We also operate training programmes to keep our technical staff up to date with technology to the benefit of both the Company and the individual.

Remuneration package

The salary and terms of employment are very good and geared to attract and retain those with ability. Assistance with relocation to the Rolls-Royce area of your choice is available in approved circumstances. Derby, Leamington and Bristol all offer a wide range of social, cultural and leisure amenities conducive to a quality lifestyle.

In addition to formal qualifications applicants, male/female, should have a minimum of one to two years industrial experience, or if recently qualified, have practical experience of a sandwich course project or equivalent.

To apply

Now just complete the quick response coupon and if you wish attach a full cv and post them to the location of your first choice, giving an indication of any other locations you would consider.

BRISTOL Dr. Clare Wilson, Rolls-Royce Limited, PO Box 4, Filton, Bristol BS12 7QE. Tel: 0272 791234 ext. 422.
DERBY Arthur Rodgers, Rolls-Royce Limited, PO Box 31, Derby DE2 8BJ. Tel: 0332 42424 ext. 588.
LEAVESDEN Peter Sartori, Rolls-Royce Limited, Leamington, Warwick CV22 7BS. Tel: 0523 670535.

QUICK RESPONSE COUPON

Please tick boxes
Posts applying for

Relevant experience: 0-1 ☐ 1-3 ☐ 3-5 ☐ 5+ years ☐

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Day: _____ (if you wish to state)
Evening: _____

Name of present employer: _____
(if you wish to state)

Present job title and nature of work: _____

Present salary £: _____ p.a.
(continue on separate sheet if necessary)

Qualifications: Hons. degree ☐ Degree ☐
HND ☐ Other ☐

Discipline: _____
Choice of location: 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____



ROLLS-ROYCE LIMITED

551 من الاجل

APPOINTMENTS Science and Technology □ Computing □ Secretarial □ General

THE GUARDIAN Thursday March 21 1985 17

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS FOR DATA COMMUNICATIONS

"BT is dedicated to communications development because, to lead the field, we must make all the running."

BT have responded quickly and decisively to the challenge of privateisation and open competition. We've raised the pace in the race to develop new technologies. To be precise, we've opened two centres - one in London, the other in Ipswich - with a brief to pioneer new data communications systems and software. A brief that's already being fulfilled...

Packet Switching, X.25, Megastream, X.3, Stream, Teletex... wherever you look, BT is forcing the pace of datacom development.

And it's vital to maintain this impetus. After all, information technology is BT's stock in trade. We must make the running if we're to lead the field. That's the challenge of genuine state-of-the-art development.

"Integrated management systems, communications protocols, information systems, electronic funds transfer... just some of the challenges now on the stocks."

We are looking for innovators. Graduate-level men and women who can help us design and develop the systems and software for future generations of packet networks. With integrated management systems, communications protocols, information systems, electronic funds transfer and other fascinating assignments now on the stocks, you can appreciate the extent of this challenge.

LONDON OR IPSWICH

BT's twin centres of advanced development
Salaries up to £16.7K

That's why we are purposely keeping an open mind when it comes to selecting talent...

Essentially, we're seeking software experience. Matched to this, we are looking for a sound working knowledge of one (and hopefully more) of the following: Data Protocols - X.25, SNA, OSI - Software Design - PDP-11 IBM Series/1 - Prime - Tandem - Unix - Database Systems - Network management - High and/or low level languages - IBM or other large mainframes.

It's a wide shopping list to suit an equally broad range of projects. However, all our Software Engineers/Designers share one vital quality: an agile intellect. A creative flair that will find unlimited expression at BT.

London - salaries from £9.7K to £16.7K

The main need here is for people with perhaps 12-24 months' software experience. We would even consider exceptional graduates, with little or no commercial exposure, who can demonstrate a real talent for database, network management and datacom development and support.

Some posts are also available in London for Senior Designers with 3-5 years' experience to lead software development teams.

Ipswich - salaries up to £15.3K plus relocation. Essentially we are searching for experience. System or Software Designers who can draw upon 2-5 years' large-scale development experience. Total professional who can not only lead a design team but also confidently ensure a satisfactory result. These posts call for a mature, decisive yet diplomatic approach. (Assistance with relocation expenses is available).

If you have these qualities and qualifications and if you can rise to the creative challenge of BT - Britain's most powerful computer user - please get in touch. Today.

Ring Emrys Davies now on Freephone 2851, for further information and meet the team from British Telecom to talk about the future - together!

British TELECOM National Networks

Informal hotel interviews in London - next week

A new Overseas opportunity in FOOD TECHNOLOGY

We are offering a first-class career opportunity to an experienced Food Technologist at our LINOR Development Centre in Switzerland.

As PROJECT LEADER, you will head up a small team and carry responsibility for the development of new cocoa beverages from laboratory scale through to industrial manufacture. It is a demanding position, for you will be involved in the complete development of new instant drinks - from conceptualization to industrialization.

You should be in the age range 26-35, possess a degree in Food Science/Technology, and be

able to demonstrate a high level of self-motivation coupled with proven man-management skills. You must also have a working knowledge of both French and English. We consider good communication skills to be of the utmost importance for, during the course of your work, you will be required to interact with various operating companies within the Group.

For more information regarding this position, together with the excellent salary and benefits package, please send a detailed cv. to: Mr J. F. Langer, Personnel Office, LINOR, Centre de développement alimentaire, CH-1350, Orbe, Switzerland.

The LINOR Development Centre is situated 20 miles north of Lausanne at Orbe, and is engaged in the development of processes for the manufacture of food products.

Nestlé

HMS Invincible, for instance. 20,000 tonnes and literally millions of moving parts. It's possible for any one of them to go wrong at any time.

But as an Engineer Officer in the Royal Navy, it's your job to make sure they don't.

Whether you choose to become a Marine, Air or Weapon Engineer, you'll have a team of highly trained technicians under your command.

And, as you progress, your suggestions could improve the design of the equipment on board.

You'll have a fascinating and very rewarding life, but first you have to qualify.

If you're aged between 15 and 17

and have, or are expecting, 'O' levels in English, Maths and a Physics-based science, you could apply for a scholarship. This will provide £1500 to help you stay at school for two years to take your 'A' levels. Then a place will be reserved for you at the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth.

If you already have 'A' levels in Maths and Physics as well as 3 'O' levels, including English (or equivalent qualifications), you can apply to study for your degree at the Royal Naval Engineering College at Manadon.

You will gain a degree which is CNAA validated and

will count towards Chartered Engineer status.

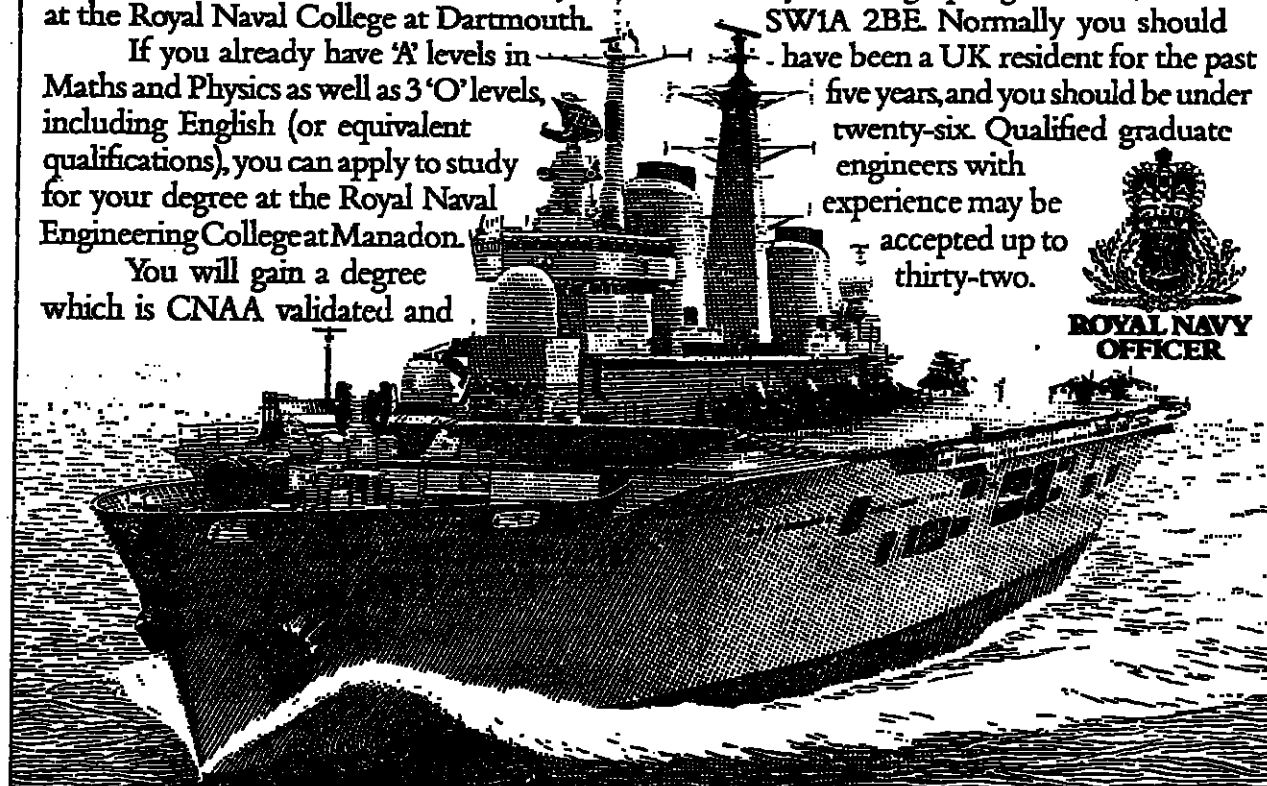
Alternatively, if you already have the promise of a place at University or Polytechnic, the Navy might be willing to sponsor you with either a University Cadetship or a Bursary. If you have already started your course, you can still apply for a Bursary.

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ANDREW CORNELIUS, GEOFFREY GIBBS and MARY BRASIER examine the purse that bought Harrods

The great £615m shopping bag

THE EGYPTIAN Al-Fayed brothers have triumphed over the Monopoly Commission, and walked through the doors of Harrods. At the cost of £615 million they now control Britain's most famous department store, as well as a hundred others — like Army and Navy, Rackhams, and Sainsbury — around the country.

How have they generated the cash necessary to buy the House of Fraser group? That the funds are available is not the question. But the nature and extent of the business interests around the world remains something of a mystery. All the assets that have been identified are on a much smaller scale than would be likely to generate cash on the scale that is available.

When a major British company receives a takeover bid the normal British practice would be for the merchant bank representing the bidder to make available detailed information about the people making the bid. There is no legal requirement for this; and under the Takeover Code, the only requirement is for the merchant bank to satisfy itself that the funds are indeed available. But because a merchant bank puts its own reputation behind a bid, it takes on a responsibility beyond the simple legal duties.

In the case of the Al-Fayed, the advising bank is Kleinwort Benson, on most measures the largest merchant bank in the City and of the highest reputation. We looked therefore, in the first instance, to Kleinwort

for information to support the bid.

The formal offer document to the shareholders of the House of Fraser, due to be published tomorrow, is unlikely to shed any more light on the Egyptian.

Kleinwort Benson say that "there will be some more information about their resources and their intentions for House of Fraser, but not a great deal."

Kleinwort has remained tight-lipped despite a steady stream of inquiries about the three brothers since they bought a 29.9 per cent share in Fraser from London for £138 million last November. Interest in the brothers heightened earlier this month when they took control of Fraser by buying another 21 per cent share stake to win control of the group.

Alfayed Investment and Trust (AIT), the Liechtenstein controlled company owned by the brothers, which now owns Fraser with the blessing of the Department of Trade and Industry, was described as "a private company controlled by Mohamed, Salah and Ali Al-Fayed" in the original Kleinwort press release. "The Al-Fayed family has widespread international interests including, in particular, ship-owning, luxury hotels, construction, oil services, banking and property," it said.

Sir Edward du Cann, chairman of Lomhro (which was investigated twice over the House of Fraser), maintains that the Al-Fayed have been allowed to win control of the company "without, appar-

ently, more than the most cursory examination of their financial status, their past history, their management capabilities, their intentions in regard to the maintenance of the existing stores, or the plans for the future."

What exactly are the Al-Fayed's interests described in general terms in the original press release about them, we asked Kleinwort Benson? Kleinwort declines to give specific details of the Al-Fayed shipping interests. But after several conversations with Mr John MacArthur, the Kleinwort's director handling the Al-Fayed affairs, he confirmed that the brothers had no fewer than 40 ships.

These include liners, a tanker, and cargo vessels operating primarily in the Mediterranean.

Asked which company runs the shipping operation, Kleinwort points out that in the shipping industry, you have one ship holding company for each ship, for tax purposes. If you have got 40 cargo vessels, you will have 40 companies. Kleinwort declined to name either the ships, or the companies which operate the Al-Fayed ships. Further inquiries in shipping circles provide no more additional evidence about the Al-Fayed's shipping interests.

Inquiries about the Al-Fayed's "luxury hotels" suggest that, in fact, the brothers own only one hotel, the Paris Ritz. Kleinwort says that the brothers bought it for \$30 million in 1983, from a consortium of investors

which included the ship owner Stavros Niarchos, the widow of Monsieur Ritz, and Cyril Stein of the Ladbroke Group.

Since 1983 the brothers have spent a further \$70 million on improving the hotel and Kleinwort estimates that it is worth in the region of \$200 million to \$300 million. This compares with the estimated \$50 million to \$60 million recently paid by the Sultan of Brunei for the Dorchester in London. The Dorchester has 75 more rooms.

In addition, the brothers have built a profitable business franchising the Ritz name. This generates revenue of about \$7 million each year. It might, Kleinwort says, be worth \$30 million.

Next we asked about the Al-Fayed's construction interests. Kleinwort says that the brothers' highest interest was a 20 per cent share stake in Costain, the UK contracting group. The brothers sold it to Lomhro in 1975, bought it back in 1976, and sold it to institutions in 1977 for £15 million. Today the brothers have investments in construction companies throughout the world but none, say Kleinwort, are as significant as was the Costain investment.

Even less is known about the brothers' oil interests. Kleinwort has suggested that the brothers' oil concessions are primarily in the United States. Have the brothers struck oil anywhere? Kleinwort doesn't know, but they describe the investment as "oil plays."

Research into the brothers'

banking interest show that they have a 51 per cent stake in National Bankshares Corporation, based in San Antonio, Texas.

The Al-Fayed's property interests are more widespread. They include a castle in Scotland, which was purchased for \$60,000. They have spent \$1 million renovating it, and have developed a game rearing business on the castle's 40,000 acre estate. In addition the brothers own a country house near Oxford in Surrey, which could, Kleinwort suggests, be worth £21 million. They also own a block of flats in Park Lane, and a property in the Champs Elysees.

A further key investment is the brother's share of the Rockefeller Centre in New York. Kleinwort says that the brothers bought this investment before New York real estate values boomed and that the property could be worth up to \$200 million now.

Other business interests owned by the brothers include a management contract for the Dubai Trade Centre and a management company employing 69 people in London.

Research into the only UK registered Al-Fayed business interests which have been identified shows that the brothers have been associated with a cluster of companies based at offices at 17 Waterloo Place, London SW1.

The international interests identified above would suggest that the Al-Fayed are, by any standard, an ex-

remely wealthy family. The wealth is widely spread internationally, which makes identification difficult. It would be reasonable to suppose that there are substantial assets which we have not been able to identify. But the scale of wealth that can be identified, even on the assumptions made by Kleinwort, is of a different order of magnitude from the funds available for the Harrods purchase.

How does Kleinwort explain this? They say that the assets described in the original press release about the brothers are over and above the accumulated family wealth of the Al-Fayed. Originally Kleinwort said that the Al-Fayed were a long-established wealthy Egyptian family, with wealth accumulated over generations. Later they explained that the family had had some interests in land and shipping in Alexandria.

Kleinwort has not provided information about the brothers' activities between leaving Alexandria in the 1950s and emerging as 20 per cent stakeholders in Costain 20 years later. But it says that the brothers were introduced by a UK clearing bank which had dealt with them for the previous 10 years, and had provided "impeccable references."

Yet the conundrum remains. Here is a substantial British asset being sold to foreign investors about whom far less information is available than any British public company would be required by law to disclose.

RICHARD GOTT on the future of the Foreign Office

Politics of envoy

IF THE Foreign Office didn't exist, would it occur to anyone to invent it? This is the question implicit in a whole succession of reports into its activities. Now there is yet another one, a friendly enquiry conducted by BBC Radio and published today as a book. Why does the Foreign Office arouse so much controversy and examination? No one cares two hoots what goes on at the Ministry of Agriculture. The answer seems to be jealousy. The Foreign Office is not so much an elite as a cult, with its own mysterious initiation ceremonies, its sense of otherness, and its exclusivity. Its future high priests, like Jesuits, are trained almost from childhood.

No one denies that British diplomats are clever, adaptable, and dedicated. But are they too clever? Is the job they are doing worth spending so much money on? The questions are important because, for the first time in public, diplomats themselves are beginning to debate the nature of their calling.

Diplomats in their late thirties, waiting for promotion, often find their work tedious and boring. Junior clerks leak documents to newspapers out of frustration. Ambassadors discover that the freedom of action for which they once longed is curtailed by rapid communications and rigid control from home. Family problems loom larger now in a calling in which, like the Church of England, the increasingly restless spouse still remains married to the job.

In their book, Simon Jenkins and Anne Slioman find plenty of evidence of malaise at all levels. And they suggest that many of the current criticisms of the Foreign Office and its workings are valid. But they also find that in some respects — the operations of the embassies in particular — the diplomatic service has come to terms with changing world with a considerable measure of success.

The problem, in other parts of the world, lies with the phenomenon of new wine in old bottles. There is still a nineteenth century flavour to the embassy buildings, to the diplomatic social round, to the niceties of diplomatic exchange.

Diplomats struggle to change with the times, but their difficulty is that they no longer have a monopoly on "abroad." The characteristics that once seemed to differentiate them from their counterparts in the "hard" languages, acquiring survival skills in foreign parts — can now be just as easily absorbed by journalists, businessmen, aid workers, and even tourists, without the fuss of belonging to an exclusive set.

Proposals for radical reform have usually fallen on deaf ears. The Foreign Office sits on vast amounts of detailed and confidential information from all over the world. Why has no way been found of disseminating it? Why don't we adopt the Latin American custom of amalgamating the Foreign Office with the Arts Council — and peopling our foreign missions with poets and novelists?

Jenkins and Slioman believe that the Foreign Office is now more ready for reform than at any time in the past. But are the politicians? Traditionally Tory foreign secretaries — Lord Home, Macmillan, Carrington, Pym, Howe — have been drawn from the same elite as the Foreign Office itself. They rarely see cause to reform the beast. Their Labour counterparts — Callaghan, Owen, Brown, Stewart, Crosland — have invariably been ignorant of foreign affairs. They have been as putty in the hands of their permanent officials.

Select Committees of MPs have provided an excuse for a foreign jaunt rather than an opportunity to promote reform. So if disgruntled diplomats hope for reform to come from Westminster, as Jenkins and Slioman also hope, they may have to wait a long time.

With Respect, Ambassador, by Simon Jenkins and Anne Slioman, published today by BBC Publications, £3.55.

This year, Tanzania's President is to step down. On his London visit, he talks to VICTORIA BRITAIN

The patient vision of Julius Nyerere

PRESIDENT Julius Nyerere received a standing ovation from the City establishment at the Mansion House, but as he said "it can hardly have been because they liked the message." In the end, it was plain, "Africa's debt burden is now intolerable. We cannot pay. You know it and all our other creditors know it. It is not a rhetorical question when I ask, should we really let our people starve so that we can pay our debts?"

The African economic crisis Nyerere has so often described was finally stamped on the consciousness of the world by the Ethiopian famine. Nyerere wanted to see the world's attention equally indelibly stamped in "We have a system, which inevitably, not because it is run by evil men, but inevitably, transfers resources from the poor to the rich. It did it 20 years ago, and it is doing it now. It is a system of inbuilt exploitation. We simply have to retransfer resources from the rich back to the poor."

Reform of the existing international economic order is hardly the favourite after-dinner subject at the Mansion House, nor will the Government have really enjoyed Nyerere's calm truth telling that "western governments have used the ignorance of their own people as an alibi for not helping us with development." Africa's foremost statesman, head of the Organisation of African Unity for a time, called "myallima" (teacher) for nothing, there is the distinct air of the headmaster's study in which Western captains of industry and Ministers shrink to bullying, bragging fourth formers.

Later this year Nyerere steps down as Head of State and for two years will devote himself to running the Party. Then I will retire to my village. I have six cows and I will work on my farm and the village farm. My greatest contribution to my country will be helping through the transition process. In the strategy period of independence in Africa power-struggles and coups have killed democracy and development in only too many countries; U-turns of

ideology have set back the dreams of the independence days.

Nyerere's Tanzania is the exception. The Arusha Declaration in 1967 dedicated the country to a new path of development. Tanzania was to be a country run by peasants and workers for peasants and workers. "This year we are having elections. If you want to stand for election and we find any capitalist associations you will not stand. In other countries it is the rich who stand for elections — not in ours."

Over the years it has been fashionable to compare Tanzania's development with its more industrialised neighbour Kenya and to conclude that the capitalist model was by the conventional indices of the economists "a success" and Tanzania was "a failure." Today, as Nyerere said at the Mansion House, "Almost every African country is in trouble, regardless of its political or economic ideology."

Some of Tanzania's most enthusiastic backers in the early attempts to "grope towards Socialism," as Nyerere put it, two decades ago have become discouraged at the lack of clear successes. Not Nyerere. "I was also more impatient 18 years ago. I set out to build a Socialist and self-reliant Tanzania. You ask me is Tanzania Socialist and self-reliant? The answer is no. But I never expected it in 18 years."

"We were a backward, totally illiterate country. We have had tremendous successes. In 1966 there were 300,000 children in primary school for four years. Today all 4.5 million primary school children are getting seven years of schooling. We have virtually wiped out illiteracy. I remember our youth used to ask me at independence, when we achieved our goals? Perhaps in 30 years, I used to answer."

The "economic disaster of the continent in the 1980s" may have set the distant goal back a bit, but it has strengthened Nyerere's authority as the prophet who got it right, and the weak who refused to give in to the strong.

The International Monetary Fund and the World

Bank have become the major determiners of economic policies in finance ministries across the continent. Nowhere is the need for foreign exchange more pressing than in Tanzania. "But if African government are really representing their people they cannot accept conditions which would lead to more hunger, to social chaos, to civil war, or to the use of armies against their people. I have been trying patiently for five years to reach a deal with the IMF. Trying without success."

Nyerere's gentle manner and impeccable politeness overlay a steely appreciation of his and Africa's enemies. "The United States is extremely ideological in its dealings with the Third World. The US made a strategic decision that South Africa is an ally in their global struggle with the Soviet Union. The inevitable consequence of that is constructive engagement, support for South Africa. The US will continue that support and the policies which have effectively blocked independence for Namibia, tried to sow confusion in Southern Africa by the Nkomotho accord and the Lusaka agreement with Mozambique and Angola last year."

In November last year Nyerere was unanimously voted chairman of the OAU after a prolonged period when the organisation was seriously split over the Western Sahara's independent status. It took Nyerere's authority to have the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic's Head of State seated and the issue finally closed. "Unity is an instrument of liberation. Our continent is struggling out of poverty and we need that unity to do it."

There is a new wind of change in Africa. "An awakening" is how Nyerere put it. Poverty, starvation and instability are not the continent's inevitable fate, but as Nyerere says, the product of a system which has to be changed. A determination to forge the African unity Nkrumah personified 20 years ago and confront the West with a demand for change which cannot be refused is now Nyerere's mission.



Nyerere, the prophet who got it right. Picture by Kenneth Saunders

The silence of the groundswell

THAT Cyril Smith can be such a bully, there was nice Archie Kirkwood, all wound up in the Alliance while the two Davids basked under the television lights, and up jumped Cyril to blot out the view and catch the Speaker's eye instead. Apparently they would have liked him to do it officially if only he'd asked, since he is a former employment spokesman; but he has been a little out of form the rest of his party recently. Archie will not have his turn in the Finance debate.

The Diary was badly chewed by Dennis Skinner yesterday for saying he'd used his prayer card to reserve a seat in the chamber normally used by the SDP. "I wouldn't use a prayer card because I don't believe in it," growled the Beast of Bolsover, crunching bone. And the SDP don't sit there either — they're down the end of the chamber. Don't go saying I'm upset because I'm not — just get it right.

Stephen Cook

than they have done for years and Mr Roy Hattersley looks happier than at any time since he became deputy leader.

The Kinloch-Hattersley leadership is certainly in control. The Shadow Chancellor's pre-budget speeches were an exercise in lowering expectations and disposing of the traditional charge of irresponsibility before it was made. There could hardly be a clearer illustration of the success of the Shadow Cabinet in overcoming what it regards as the Left's resistance to "realism."

But, not for the first time, Mr Benn sees in this picture a distortion induced by the Parliamentary concerns of the leadership and looks at the party with the telescope the other way round. Faced with the claims of his traditional opponents — and some of those who have drifted quietly out of the camp since the heady days of 1981 — he asserts that the current state of affairs doesn't undermine his thesis about the state of the party, it proves it.

Characteristically, he finds himself disputing the popular version of events. Certainly the strike was not a

glorious victory, he accepts, but it released a vigour in constituency parties, women's support groups and all the other ad hoc organisations that sprung up in response to the NUM's appeal.

The result, in Mr Benn's view, is that the foundation has been laid for a new kind of campaign party based on the defence of jobs and services, and pulling in radicals from all kinds of groups on the Left now outside the Labour Party but ready to help form the natural majority against Thatcherism which he is convinced is just waiting to be mobilised.

Speaking this week about such campaigns, all the traditional confidence was there. Meetings were crowded, he said. All sorts of people, from the churches, black groups, gays, community organisations were listening to the message about the need for broadly-based campaigns to defend the people's rights. All this is going on, he asserts, almost unnoticed by those consumed with the concerns of Parliamentary leadership.

"I sometimes feel as if I am walking through a sort of minefield with the bullets flying past me. But they are

all missing the target." It's a familiar posture for the old campaigner: he senses the mood, and everyone else is looking the wrong way.

But is it true? Today's post-match analysis of the strike from the Labour Coordinating Committee makes much the same point. It argues that the campaign effectiveness, and that the leadership now has an obligation to learn the lessons — that networks of campaigners can operate more effectively in producing a natural majority for Labour than purely Parliamentary activity.

It goes further. "The strike has been neither the death knell nor the ringing affirmation of class politics that various pundits have claimed. Instead it indicates the possibilities which changes in class structure open up for Labour."

Mr Benn sees it all, naturally, as a confirmation of the trend in the party over more than two decades. Now for talks of the Gaitheall-SDP-Hobbsen consensus, a withering reference to the historical effort to explain class changes and Labour's new obligations. For Mr Benn, the opportunities are

JAMES NAUGHTIE on the view from Tony Benn

now different — the gleam in his eye looks like Jesse Jackson's "rainbow coalition" of the dispossessed — but the old tension in the party is the same. A Parliamentary leadership is out of touch with the mass party which is starting to grow out of the strike and the deprivations of the past six years.

"If you have a Pym or a Walker, Tony Party the Shadow Cabinet would be lost. You couldn't put a postcard between them," he says. But surely the party is winning support, to judge by the polls, by adopting policies softer than those advocated by the hard Left? "Well, you can try to breathe life into a corpse, but in the end it will still be a corpse."

So it's the old battle after all. The effort of the leadership to convince the country that it is capable of good economic management is just a promise to tinker with the system; the traditional Wilsonian shuffle towards the middle ground is well under way.

But the view from Chesterfield is in one sense quite different from the one we knew in Bristol South-east. There is to be no overt challenge to Mr Kinnoch — "I'm

too old for that sort of thing" — and it's recognised in the Benn circle that the apparatus of the party is firmly in the leadership's hands. So the talk now is of a groundswell in the constituencies which will convince the Parliamentarians that Labour has to concentrate on a programme of demands on housing, social services, jobs — which will build the majority against Mrs Thatcher.

But as they look at Mr Benn, his critics sense that he is defensive in a way that would have been unthinkable a few years ago and that the "natural majority" of which he speaks is more likely to be built on Mr Kinnoch's terms. They point particularly to the Left's splits on its response to ratecapping and the confusion and bitterness in London, as evidence that the mood is not as clear as Mr Benn would have it.

They see him as the outsider, but he grins in his good-humoured and comfortable way, and looks forward to his broad-front of anti-Thatcherism springing up around him. Outsider? Not at all. "Don't worry, I'm not at Colomby-les-deux-Châteaux yet."



Lord and Lady Eastbourne, Inspector Watkins from the drug squads

HAROLD MACMILLAN holds up a stern wet finger in South Africa and says there's a wind of change whistling through the continent; and the next month, the wind is pungent with the reek of blood and gunsmoke. For once the historic-present tense is right: Sharpeville happened 25 years ago today, and is still with us. This week, at least 10 black people were killed in riots in the eastern Cape.

In 1960, Sharpeville was a small town near Johannesburg and on that March day, it was the capital of nowhere. Next morning it was on the world's doorstep, in front page headlines, 69 black South Africans killed, mostly shot in the back, 200 wounded, when police panicked and opened fire on a peaceful protest against the repressive pass laws. Tonight on Channel 4 Jack Klaff's one-man show, *Nagging Doubt*, which started out on the Edinburgh fringe, offers a reminder of what led to Sharpeville, and some of what stemmed from it.

Klaff was nine at the time, a Johannesburg schoolboy, a personal experience of that period wars of being among a lot of kids whose parents had been arrested—though mine never were. The parents who weren't arrested looked after the kids of those who were, so there were lots of kids together, and in some ways we had a wonderful time because of that. That's a very important memory for me. And some of that exuberance is there in the play, as a kind of norm.

Klaff plays 17 parts, from the nine-year-old child of white liberal parents to Macmillan and Verwoerd, Chief Albert Lutuli and Nelson Mandela, without benefit of



Jack Klaff in *Nagging Doubt* (above); Roger Graef — picture by Kenneth Saunders

Hugh Hebert meets the team behind a play about Sharpeville

Ricochet from a massacre

any change of make up or costume, apart from donning a military cap. He takes risks, runs the finest of razors when he plays the boy, or his mother, and maybe even bigger but different risks when he takes on the personae of down an octave or so of black folk heroes like Lutuli or Mandela.

Klaff is a remarkable performer, but we tend to squint at grown men and serious actors pretending to be small boys, and look over

our shoulders when they pretend to be black. Klaff seems more worried by the danger of sudden money—three television plays in the pipeline, a big Bruce Beresford film recently completed with Richard Gere.

"I could be tempted by big money. I've always tried to do things with some sort of integrity, tried to avoid the crap. But it seems I'm in danger of climbing on to a bandwagon of a lot of suffering that black people have gone through for 25 years, and for very much longer

than that. It's a very dangerous time for me." And for Roger Graef, the British-based American filmmaker who has directed all three of the television plays. It is his first direction of drama after 20 years working in documentaries, where he was one of the pioneers of the fly-on-the-wall techniques of television filming that have now become commonplace. A dozen years ago he made the series *The Space Between Words*, then *State Of The Nation*, the series Decision, and in 1982,

the most controversial and famous of them, the series *Police*. The reasons for his switch back to drama, where he had a long track record before he began documentaries, are mixed. Partly he is tired of what he calls "Sisyphus productions" where you have to push projects uphill all the way, with your nose, tired of the endless negotiations to gain the trust of a civil service department. (Ironically, and by accident, he has become a kind of alternative establishment man within

the establishment: a director of Channel 4, prominent in the recent debate about its banned M15 programme, a member of official committees.) Partly, it was the pleasure of the task itself. "Getting back to directing drama was like getting back on a bicycle, I loved it. And I suppose I'm really interested now in reaching a wider audience; though the *Police* series reached 11 million, just a couple of places behind Dallas."

But the way he went back

to drama was, he concedes, pretty insane. Klaff's two pretty insane single-handers, *Nagging Doubt* and *The 50 Minute Hour*, made back to back in four days. They are both hour-long plays, and probably the only kind of plays that could have been made at that speed.

Gray might have been expected to mark his return to drama with something close to documentary style, like a Ken Loach or a Mike Leigh. Instead, three wholly non-naturalistic plays (the third, for the BBC, now being edited).

The years of fly-on-the-wall filming show only in the self-censoring, almost invisible direction, which nevertheless contributes to the overall sense of style — for instance, in the way Klaff is filmed when playing a black character, emphasizing the fact that the most highlights on a face look almost the same whether the face is white or black.

But when you ask, why such an anti-naturalistic form of drama? — the only real answer is that Graef is in the business of breaking categories. "It doesn't make perfect sense. It's always a temptation (in documentaries) to try and make it all seem neat and tidy, but I like something that reverberates. That's what I'm trying to do in drama too — I've always tried to provide an experience, not an explanation."

The 50 Minute Hour comes into the category too. It's about what runs through a psychoanalyst's head about his patients, his job, the human mind itself, and stems partly from a story Klaff did about Kafka. "Because I have a certain resemblance to Kafka if I stick my ears out. And he loved theatre, he loved one-man shows, he loved the idea of one human mind being all humanity."

Robin Denselow reviews the rock releases

Taking the rap

AFTER proving he can be chic, by co-producing Mick Jagger's solo album, Bill Laswell now shows he can be radical, by adding his currently fashionable expertise to two albums by very different black musicians who have suffered for their outspoken work.

The most intriguing of the two is *The Last Poets' Oh My People* (Celluloid), the first album release in eight years by the New York exponents of early rap and a furious political message. The Poets recorded six albums between 1970 and 1977, with their half-spoken, declamatory vocals usually backed by bass and congas. In recent years they have had no major recording deal — despite the massive popularity of the New York rap styles they helped to create — and they have apparently kept going simply by playing benefit shows.

Now Laswell's help, the Poets are back, but with the old style (which they displayed so effectively at the Shaw Theatre last month) now dressed up for the Eighties. The message, and the vocal techniques, are as distinctive as ever. They haven't been transformed into Afrika Bambaataa or Run-DMC, but their opening *Get Movin'* does have a stomping, synthesized backing, provided by Bernie Worrell and Laswell himself. Elsewhere, as on the nuclear warning *This Is Your Life*, the electronics have been subtly mixed with the Poets' more usual congas and cowbells, and the angry, rhythmic chanting messages are brought up to date.

Fela Anikulapo Kuti: Fela (Celluloid). Laswell's second production of the week (again using Bernie Worrell on synthesizer) is for the veteran Fela Kuti, who is currently serving a five-year jail sentence for allegedly trying to smuggle currency out of the country — a sentence widely believed to be politically inspired because of Kuti's continuing musical attacks on the authorities.

Musically, this set is interesting because it's the first time that Kuti has allowed an outside producer to work on his recordings. The result, predictably, is a tougher, more modern approach, with the usual African and jazz influences mixed in with the added synthesiser and electronic percussion from Jamaica's Sly Dunbar.

But this is still a distinctive sound, and a different one from his other albums. Extended jazzy shuffles develop into chanting vocals criticising corruption and the take-over by the current military regime. He's brave to have his music released, from his prison cell.

Jackie Wilson: Keet Petite (Cap). With *Wishful Thinking* Commodore's moving tribute to Jackie Wilson and Marvin Gaye, now high in the best-sellers, this is a timely compilation of the work of one of the great black singers of the 1950s and 1960s. Wilson died last year after spending eight years in hospital following a heart attack, but even before this the man immortalised in the Van Morrison song had an uneven and tragic career, including being shot at by a mobster in the late Fifties and early Sixties, when Wilson, then a soloist after replacing Clyde McPhatter in the Dominoes, used his light, acrobatic voice to tackle songs from wildly energetic, seemingly effortless Rhythm and Blues to gospel and soul, as well as Mario Lanza-style grand declamatory ballads that haven't survived the years so well.

The Sound: Heads And Hearts (Statik). Five albums on, this London band has never quite achieved the success they deserve, but they have kept going and Adrian Borland is still writing good songs. This latest set has a languid, slightly doleful feel, with personal lyrics offset by clanking bass and subtle use of keyboards and saxophone.

Howard Jones: Dream Into Action (WEA). My least favourite of the current crop of British pop heroes, Howard Jones has the appeal of a genial, elder brother, dressed up in a quirky hard-boiled, his warbling tinkling, forgettable songs are filled with re-assuring slogans. They have titles like *Things Can Only Get Better* (the current hit), and *No-one Is To Blame*, which is a more mainstream ballad. A tuneful, dull and trite set.

Belinda is a fearfully good sort in **DAISY** *PELLS IT OFF* **GLOBE THEATRE** 01-437 1592

Roger Sessions

ROGER SESSIONS was born in Brooklyn in 1936 but brought up in Massachusetts. He studied music at Harvard and later with Horacio Parker and Ernest Bloch. He spent 1952-53 in Europe, returning to America to become a teacher at Princeton.

He composed fairly little before he was 50. The early works, mainly in a neo-classical Stravinskian style, are much less characteristic than the serial works of later years, their long and convoluted melodies, dense textures, rich chromatic harmonies and incessantly active polyphony.

In 1928 Sessions, in collaboration with Aaron Copland, organised one of the first important series of concerts of American contemporary music. These ran for four years, including works by European composers and occasional concerts in Europe as well as in America.

Sessions himself had no belief in an all-American music or in the need to draw in a wider audience by deliberately simplifying style. On this issue he parted company from Copland, and also regarded with suspicion the strong French influence on American music in the 1930s.

His music, as Copland remarked, is what the French would call *rebatouff*, with a certain stern and dour aspect, as if the pieces themselves dared you to like them. His large output included eight symphonies, two operas, and a particularly fine cantata, *When Lilacs Last In The Dooryard Bloomed*.

Hugo Cole

TELEVISION

Hugh Hebert

Open Space

OUT THERE in the natural world and local government evolution never sleeps. There is this caterpillar that has learnt to survive on poisonous ragwort and strip its flesh, and ants that are pale in the near ultraviolet light of other insects, carrying them off like police at a cruise base demo. There are even people who have learnt to thrive in the fusty fumes of town halls and still breed mutant versions of democracy.

Just to confuse the issue, the councillors were in *Open Space* (BBC2), while the ants were in *The 300 Million Years War* (QED, BBC1), where John Lawton stood chest high in plants, wielding a giant Hoover, getting his head caught in the bracken and, you may suspect, badly bitten from the waist down. Lawton is a kind of thin Bellamy, and if anyone could make me stop scratching and start to love bugs, it might be him.

Before you counter that they were preferable to the councillors, let me just say that in *Open Space*, Michael Mansfield conducted the best broad spectrum debate on local democracy I've seen for quite a while. What it missed in detail — or even any real examination of the capping issue — it made up in clarity. Mansfield may have watered Frost too much

an intonation here, a touch of arrogance there suggests it — but he managed to cover an enormous amount of ground and make some sense of it. Islington's way with local

democracy — power to the 24 neighbourhood offices — isn't the way of the other councils represented. Tory Westminster or Bradford where the Liberals hold the balance, or rebel Edinburgh. But at least it wasn't made to look inherently more silly than any of the others: it had the space to make its case, even if its practice was promptly rejected by a couple of its local small businessmen.

What remains absurd is that even in this very wide forum there was just one young black man, from St Paul's in Bristol, the kindling place of the fires of 1981, and one Asian, the Lord Mayor elect of Bradford. Who, with punctilious politeness, put Mansfield right: "I do not represent only Asians, I represent everyone who voted for me."

BIRMINGHAM

Gerald Lamer

CBSO/Jansons

HAVING lost one very gifted Jansons, the musical world can console itself in the presence of another, perhaps even better, Jansons. While retaining his Soviet connections, Marius Jansons, son of Arvid, is making a spectacular reputation in western Europe, not least because of his very obvious love of colour and his flair for the dramatic.

Music like Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, which opened his concert with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, is just the sort he likes. As well as being a sensational orches-

tral performance, it was an intelligent interpretation too, with the Friar Laurence theme at the beginning taken quickly enough to be integrated into the drama rather than presented as it all too often is as a solemn and separable introduction.

His treatment of Shostakovich's Sixth Symphony was no less successful. Far from rushing through the first movement to get to the playful and satirical delights of the other two, he took it very seriously indeed. He indulged its deadly melancholy and at the same time secured for it the stature to balance the rest of the work. The CBSO survived the long and slow examination creditably, above all the woodwind principals, and it deserved its riotous release into Broadway vulgarity at the end.

The disappointment of the concert was Igor Oistrakh's performance of Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto. One might have expected him to welcome this opportunity to demonstrate his family relationship with one of the finest of all Russian concertos. Sadly, however, he limited his participation to a dutiful account of the notes on the stand in front of him, communicating as little with the orchestra as with the audience.

WORCESTER

Barry Still

Polish CO

JERZY Maksymiuk and the Polish Chamber Orchestra including the *Star* city on their present UK tour, offered a programme of works from their regular repertoire. Bach's Third Brandenburg Concerto introduced us at once to the ensemble's characteristic period style: a mellow warmth in touches, especially in the strong nucleus of violas, topped by a bright and perfectly tailored trio of violins.

In Bach's A minor Violin Concerto Jan Standa provided a solo part of characterful clarity and razor-sharp

intention, and even when his tone softened the line remained crystalline without romantic gloss. The heavy, not ponderous recurring bass figure in the andante was pointed and phrased with care, and apt foil to the scurrying ripple texture of the finale. Bach was commemorated with distinction.

The full band appeared for Tchaikovsky's *Serenade Op.48*. Maksymiuk now wore his emotions more openly, and his players with rich velvety vibrato showed that their talents extended beyond the Baroque. Here again it was intuitive inter-mental cohesion and balance, and the discipline achieved after 13 years, which were so striking.

In Vivaldi's *The Seasons*, a real party piece, the clarity was just as riveting heard from a position further from the platform, and nature's sounds and sensations were transmitted with delight and aplomb, with Standa again in excellent form.

BRISTOL

Nicholas de Jongh

In Times Like These

JEREMY Brock's first full-length play has great aspirations. It is drenched in historical allusions, spans some 18 years, 16 scenes and 17 characters, and it moves from the plains of Hungary in the midst of the 1956 uprising to a riot outside a multinational corporation's factory in Brussels of 1984. And en route to its conclusion, it pauses upon the portentous playing fields of some English public school.

Young Mr Brock is all too clearly yearning for the mantle of Howard Barker, and rigging out one of those Barkerish epics which runs through a stretch of modern European history and leaves us with the taste of ashes. Yet somehow I feel his heart is not in it. The grand historical events are like modish irrelevant backdrops

for a curious little love affair which begins in 1956 when young Laurence Hayes is smitten by Vivien Mercer and which only survives by benefit of his obsession. Vivien is first seen spilling out of a large Red Cross hamper on the Hungarian plains, looking just as if she'd been engaged in an hour's heavy titivating. And since she is played by the new young film star, Greta Scacchi, no wonder.

"It all began with a trip from art school," we soon learn and the sight of the students with guns in their untrained hands beggars belief. The complicated betrayal that Vivien visits upon Laurence leads to the long-sell-out life married to a prim Catholic Common Market official (Edwin).

And it gives Mr Brock the rather irrelevantly holed up both in High Wycombe and in Paris during the '68 events. His wandering career, as thriller writer, and schoolmaster, is presumably the result of his mostly unrequited passion for Vivien.

Both her motives and Laurence's obsession (rewarded with an eventual affair) make the play resemble scenes from an English version of *Dalai*. Brock sagably mocks and despises the women's sell-out, her husband's life as a corrupted Brussels fixer.

Paul Unwin's production is best in scenes of violent action and hampered by Su Bennett's almost non-existent set. Tim Woodward's Laurence ages convincingly and touchingly, and his gradual withdrawal into introversion is vivid while Greta Scacchi, as glacial as Grace Kelly, does almost nothing very well. In a fine cast David Allister's Edwin supplies a sense of conviction otherwise rather missing from the play.

ICA

Mick Brown

James

HIGH flying in the independent charts, the current darlings of the music press and publicly championed by Morrissey lead singer with the Smiths, these are exciting and possibly worrying times for Manchester's four-piece James.

Morrissey's endorsement is logical. Like the Smiths, James are a skeletal four-piece inhabiting a world where the synthesiser is unknown and with a lead singer quirkily distinctive in character and voice.

What James have that the Smiths don't is charm — oodles of it. They are, for one, not half as twee as their name suggests; they do not look precocious but rather

well adjusted, intelligent, disarmingly matter-of-fact; vegetarians all, (curiously much has been made of this in the music press) they look wholesome rather than half-baked.

Their sound complements the look; clean, craftsmanlike and pastel shaded, distinctly folksy at times with its thrumming guitars, balalaika and with at least two outstanding songs — *Johnny Yen* and *Sea Song* — which is two more than most of the current crop of English bands have to offer. It is far from the frenetic, baleful and lurid mood of the Smiths at their worst. There is Tim Booth, a young singer who displays an uncommon self-assurance, a sense of bemused poise which occasionally ruptures into arm-waving abstraction and which is strangely compelling.

All of this of course adds up only to raw promise at present but there is a soundness to James' approach, a glimpse of fresh ideas and above all the feeling that this is not meretricious or opportunistic but augurs well for the future. They are the most refreshing new English band I have heard in ages.

PLYMOUTH

Allen Saddler

Strippers

PETER Terson's play about the raw facts of life in the industrial wasteland of the North-east hits the economic nail on the head time and time again. Strippers deals with a genuine moral problem. In eight minutes a stripper can earn as much as can be earned in an eight-hour day in more normal employment; and the demand is brisk.

The play deals with the progress of a housewife with a child and out of work husband, into a round of well-paid exposures. The dialogue is terse, earthy and economic. In sharp exchanges and pointed wisecracks Terson investigates the female attitude to this means of easy money, the wounded pride of the husband, and rampant male chauvinism in general.

The touring version at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, takes us, through constant and slick scene changes, into the pubs, clubs and home environment of an area blighted by unemployment. It is all wonderfully direct and authentic; doing the kind of job that *Love On The Dole* did for the Thirties depression.

There is some danger of the play turning into a show. What sets out to be an investigation can easily turn into a celebration. Bill Maynard, brilliantly seedy as the stripper's agent, runs through a stand-up club routine and it is difficult to decide whether the applause is for the accuracy of the impersonation or for the stream of tasteless jokes. There seems to be a bit of Alf Garnett in this character, making the Neanderthal view respectable by uncovering a dark layer of conditioned content.

It is certain that the title and the subject matter will make Terson's play a hit. It is also certain that this is an important, well-crafted, well-researched piece of social observation that deserves to do well. Judi Lamb plays the agonising housewife and Brendan Healy argues strongly as the wounded husband. Lynda Bellingham fires the wisecracks as the experienced old hand and Lyn Douglas as the aunt is surprisingly pragmatic. There is some delicious foreshadowing from Jackie Lye as an ambitious but inept performer.

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Just one dam thing after another

Derek Malcolm reviews the week's releases — *The River*, *Every Picture Tells A Story*, *Morons From Outer Space*, two Chaplin revivals, and *Class Relations*

THE NEW American spirit of affirmation runs like a bright thread through Mark Rydell's *The River* (Plaza, PG). Or so the production notes say. Like Richard Pearce's *Country* and Robert Benton's *Places in the Heart*, the film tries hard to pluck at the heartstrings while getting down to the real gritty of the homesteaders' life. And to suggest that the independent families tilling the American soil today are the true descendants of the pioneers we watched in all those Westerns long ago.

The family this time works a farm in Eastern Tennessee, constantly threatened by floods, mounting debts, spiralling prices and plans for a new hydroelectric dam that will flood its valley for good. Sissy Spacek is mother and Mel Gibson father, and the situation is further complicated by the fact that the potential dam-builder (Scott Glenn) fancies the farmer's wife.

But that ain't all. Pushed to the edge by mounting debts, the farmer goes to work in a steel mill whose striking workers thus regard him as a scab. Finally, though, the farmers unite — just as they do in *Country*. The big battle is fought off at least for the moment. The American spirit of individual enterprise has reasserted itself.

It is not possible to sit through all this without a certain cynicism, since Rydell seems increasingly determined to have it both ways. Nice liberal sentiments, suitable for the soft wing of the Democrats, sit uneasily with the obstinate

frontiersman sentimentality more suitable for the Reagan era. And the fact that Vilmos Zsigmond, Rydell's cameraman, bathes the whole scene in the kind of glowing contours meant to smooth out every rough corner does not help matters. Somehow you know everything's going to be fine in the end.

Still, Rydell, known after *On Golden Pond* as an actor's director, secures a host of good performances. Spacek is as reliably unforced as ever, and Gibson, the Australian who threatens to be crippled by the tag of the new Clark Gable, tries hard to shed the woodenness that might prevent further progress up the Hollywood pecking order.

But nobody can prevent *The River* looking more like an attractive gesture rather than the real thing. There is a point in it when a frightened deer strays blinking into the steel mill, and is tenderly led out by the sweating scab labour. It is clearly supposed to be one of the film's most pertinent moments, but Rydell manages to put self-conscious quotes round it. In the end, that goes for the whole film too.

James Scott's *Every Picture Tells A Story* (Minema, PG) is a dramatised tribute to his father, the Scots-born painter William Scott. Though clearly born of genuine affection and respect, it is in no sense a hagiography, treating the tensions between Scott's early life and developing art with understated but moving force.

Scott's paintings are used to illuminate this very effectively, but there are none of the usual grand gestures. The

film itself seems made with a series of small brush-strokes intended to have a properly cumulative effect.

The result is small in scale but consistently intriguing as the struggle of Scott's large family to survive poverty and the death of his father shapes the putative painter's future. Phyllis Logan and Alex Norton are strong and credible as his parents but it is the director's determination to lay the truth out before us, without frills or sentimentality, that makes his most personal film a success.

There isn't a pretentious moment in it, and the scenes

between father, a sign-writer and decorator, and his hesitant but fascinated son, are among the most revealing in the film.

A Shocking Accident, Scott's Oscar-winning short film, is shown with it.

Morons From Outer Space (Warner West End etc, PG) has a funny basic idea but fritters away almost every chance to build on it. What if the inhabitants of another planet fell to earth in a malfunctioning space-ship and proved even sillier than ourselves?

Griff Rhys Jones and Mel Smith wrote the film and star

in it. James B. Sicking of Hill Street Blues is also involved. Mike Hodges directs, with what seems to be increasing desperation. It's a long time since I've seen so disorganised a farce, or so much intended humour ruined by sheer carelessness.

The moral must be that it's a long way between making a funny telly series and a feature film, as some very distinguished comics have discovered in the past. But the gap's not unbridgeable. It just takes an awful lot of work. The organised anarchy of something like *Hellzapoppin* is nowhere apparent in

Morons. But humour is subjective and I hope someone likes it. Olsen and Johnson weren't everyone's heroes either.

Chaplin was, at one time, almost everyone's. Laughter, however, was not all he inspired in me. I still vividly remember crying so loudly during a performance of *The Gold Rush* that an usherette ran to my aid with a handkerchief, which stifled the noise if not the water. I'm not sure what would happen now, but the film is revived, together with *Shoulder Arms*, at the Gate, Bloomsbury, and shines as brightly as it ever did.

The programme is mounted as an ancillary event to the publication of David Robinson's *Chaplin, His Life And Art*, one of the great merits of which is the writer's account of the genesis and making of this and other masterpieces. The book, published by Collins, and the film make good companions.

Jean-Marie Straub and Daniele Huillet's *Class Relations* (PG), based on Kafka's *America*, shows for a week at the Camden Plaza. Concentrating on his acute social observation rather than on the usual psychological implications, the film has the

formal, austere but eloquent quality of Straub's best work and tells the story of the "lost one", Karl Rossmann, in political rather than spiritual terms.

What is missing is Kafka's pawky sense of humour, without which a certain dryness prevails. Its clarity, however, is admirable. At its best, the film, like those of Bresson, uses its apparent lack of drama to crystallise the book's themes and purposes rather than bludgeon them home. Nightmares are not always blood-and-thunder. The worst of them speak with a still, small voice like this.



Flights of fantasy — the *Morons From Outer Space*, above, and Mel Gibson, far left, in *The River*

BRIEFING

Best films



Robert De Niro — *Taxi Driver*

Carmen (Lumiere): Francesco Rosi's full-scale verismo version of the Bizet opera with Julia Migenes Johnson, a great Carmen, Domingo, and Raimondi.

Wetherby (Curzon West End): David Hare's intelligent feature debut with fine performances, particularly from Vanessa Redgrave as prime example of English inhibitions.

Dance With A Stranger (Cinema): Mike Newell's study of fifty repressions through the story of Ruth Ellis, the last woman hanged here for murder. Miranda Richardson excellent.

Kaos (Academy): The Taviani brothers adapt Pirandello stories about Sicily to the screen. Their best since *Padre padrone*, and very beautiful.

Country (Odeon, Haymarket): Sam Shepard and Jessica Lange as put-upon American farmers. Richard Pearce's film more genuine than Benton's more garlanded *Places in the Heart*.

Brasil (Odeon, Leicester Square): Terry Gilliam meets Franz Kafka meets Walter Mitty. Long but full of excellent ideas, mostly visual.

Best on TV

Le Jeur Se Love (tomorrow, BBC 1, 12.05): Late-night showing of Prevert-Carne masterpiece of 1969, with Gabin as fated murderer, Arletty as his lover.

Some Call It Loving (tomorrow, CA 1, 11.50): Odd but original James B. Harris fantasy of 1973, a baroque but sophisticated commentary on love, innocence and experience.

Rat Trap (Sunday, CA 2, 2.30): Another in CA's good indie season — Adoor Gopalakrishnan's BFI award winner about feudal Brahmin landlord unable to face changed times. Made in 1982.

And There They Were (Sunday, CA 10.30): Rene Clair's last Hollywood film, with Walter Huston et al. depicting themselves in Christie's lastingly tedious *Little Niggers*. Made in 1945.

The King of Comedy (Tuesday, CA 9.00): Another television outing for Martin Scorsese's often brilliant study of show-biz obsessions, with De Niro as would-be comic and Jerry Lewis as the talk-show host he kidnaps.

The Contract (Wednesday, CA 9.00): Zanussi's fine 1980 study of Polish society in the year of Solidarity, through a society wedding that goes disastrously wrong. With Leslie Caron, Maja Komorowska.

Dog Day Afternoon (Saturday, BBC-1, 10 pm): Lumet's 1975 account of true story about New York bank robbery that went wrong. Al Pacino at his best.

Strambelli (Saturday, BBC-2, 3.10): 1949 Rossellini, starring Ingrid Bergman as oppressed wife on barren Italian island.

Medley Blaise (Saturday, BBC-2, 10.05): 1986 Losey comedy, some way after strip cartoon with Monica Vitti, Terence Stamp, and Dirk Bogarde.

Special interest

Views Of The Valleys, the season of Welsh films at the National Film Theatre, continues tonight with *Cinema Action So That You Can Live* and on Saturday shows Stephen Bayly's winner of the Celtic Film Festival, *The Southern Comfort* programme reaches Nashville on Sunday, and Michael Roemer's notable first film, *Nothing But A Man*, on Tuesday.

Three Remains films — *Life Is A Bed Of Roses*, Hiroshima Mon Amour and Providence — are on the bill at the Everyman, Hampstead, on Sunday. Tonight, the full-length Visconti *Leopold*.

There's a Sam Fuller double at the Scala on Tuesday — *The Naked Kiss* and *Shock Corridor*. Vertov and Eisenstein share the programme on Wednesday. Alex Cox's lively *Repo Man* is at the Rio, London, from Friday to Wednesday. David Lynch's *Dune* begins a run at the

Barbican Cinema on the same day.

Outside London, the Arvil Civic Cinema, Sheffield, the future of which is threatened by rate-capping, presents a special programme tonight organised by the local Anti-Apartheid Movement. It marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre and includes the remarkable *Last Grave at Dimbaza*. There's a special event marking the opening of the British Film Year at the Cambridge Arts Cinema on Sunday, which includes a screening of a new British film and celebrity guests.

The new *Rendezvous Cinema* at the Hornpipe Arts Centre, Portsmouth, reports encouraging audiences after its first month's operation. At the moment the showings are Wednesday to Friday weekly. This Thursday and Friday there's Tavernier's excellent *Under the Country*, one of the outstanding non-English-speaking films of last year.

Derek Malcolm

Barbican Cinema on the same day.

All the rage

With *The Killing Fields* up for seven Oscars, its scriptwriter, Bruce Robinson, talks to Nicholas de Jongh

IT IS astonishing that Bruce Robinson ever came to write the script for *The Killing Fields*, let alone see his version achieve celluloid life and fame. In 1981 he was a former film actor who had played "Tchaikovsky's bum-boy" in Ken Russell's extravagant film, and spent the previous 11 years writing film scripts, none of which had ever been made, even though he had been on the payroll of David Puttnam, the film's producer, since 1976. Yet there again was his mentor, presenting him with his greatest challenge and chance. He had been sent nothing more than the journalist Sydney Schanberg's 4,500-word article in the New York Times about his last days in Cambodia before the American evacuation and his attempt to rescue his Cambodian friend Dith Pran.

"Just imagine," says Robinson, a lean man in his late thirties who looks like a melon-headed hippie, "you need \$15 millions to do an American gulf job, you've got an unknown Cambodian as the star, and a script writer financiers have never heard of. Puttnam was marvellous. He held out for me to do it. I don't know how he had that kind of confidence."

Puttnam's faith has been amply justified — about 80 per cent of Robinson's script — eight times re-written — survived and was used for shooting. But the ex-actor came all unknowing to the business of elaborating Schanberg's 4,500 words into several hours of screenplay. Having read the New York Times his first reaction was to ask what and where was the Cambodian point of view. "One thing was clear," he says, "you could find yourself in deep water doing another Vietnam film." So he went off

to see Sydney Schanberg and disliked him at first sight. "I found him terribly guilty, up-tight and defensive. He made me feel very uneasy. He was pungent and authoritarian, like my father."

Here, Robinson decided, was the natural villain of his script, on whom would be visited some of his own rage about America's Far Eastern policies. But Schanberg quickly began the process of disarming him by saying that Robinson must write whatever he wanted. He then went on to see Schanberg's rescued long-suffering friend Dith Pran, "the most remarkable man I've ever met," and began the meticulous research into his life and hard times in Cambodia.

He knew nothing about that country or Vietnam, beyond what he gleaned from these two and what he remembered from television and newspapers. So he set out on a voyage of education.

He saw journalists like William Shawcross and Jon Swain. He failed to get into Cambodia but did reach Thailand which, he believes, gave him "a terrific sniff of Cambodia," even though it was rather like "going to Calais to discover what it's like in Kent."

When he arrived it was in the middle of a military coup. He went into the countryside, and saw dead bodies lacking the dignity of graves. "It never seen a stiff. Here was subject utter poverty of the sort he'd never known on either side of the Atlantic. He saw a girl in flames from here to foot as he was driving to the airport. 'Stop. Stop,' he begged his driver. But the driver went on saying that they could not save her, that they'd be killed if they stopped."



Cambodia, and its genocidal suffering.

After this, when he finally sat down to write his script, a curious change occurred. "My perceptions of Schanberg shifted. Now I could see myself in his situation. He was incredibly brave. I started to develop an amazing admiration for him." It was this admiration which has clearly shaped the script.

Puttnam, Robinson says, according to some newspaper interview, had accused him of being anti-American in his first draft. "But I was only anti a species of American foreign policy. You don't say Norman Mailer's anti-American because of his book *Why Are We in Vietnam?*"

He concedes that Puttnam had diluted a measure of anti-Americanism in his script because Puttnam "knew what you can get perceptions of a very expensive film." Implicitly, Robinson seemed to be suggesting that Puttnam knew what degree of excoriating abuse and condemnation American financiers would accept in a film which they were being asked to fund. And his calculations have proved accurate.

Virtually nothing has been invented. Schanberg's outline has been expanded but not altered. Robinson did, however, equip Pran with a non-existent child on his escape out of Cambodia. His justification for this change is interesting and revealing. "I wanted to get the feeling of Pran becoming man," he says, "in a sense he reckons that Pran had 'functioned' hitherto as son to Schanberg's father figure, even while functioning as the journalist's interpreter."

The final script is one which commands his admiration. He fought over one de-

tail only. He hated the use of John Lennon's song *Imagine* at the end of the film, but the wishes of Puttnam and director Roland Joffe prevailed. The director and producer are always victorious.

Yet there are some rewards — Robinson says he was paid \$250,000 spread over three years. He calculates that after his agent has been paid and a huge chunk is forfeited for taxation he will earn no more than a successful GP would in the same period. Meanwhile a script he wrote ten years ago is about to be filmed and he is working on one about the creation of the atom bomb in the late 1930s "a horrifying story of unbelievable mendacity."

It is clearly serving to fuel his pessimism and anger about the state of England "then and now. His rage has not passed away with *The Killing Fields*.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's DON GIOVANNI (PG)

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Into the void

Stuart Hood on Orwell's war broadcasts

Orwell: *The War Broadcasts*, edited by W. J. West (Duckworth, £3.95).

THERE was a tradition among some of his wartime colleagues that Orwell, when writing 1984, drew on his experiences as a talks producer in the BBC's Overseas Services. The voice that boomed over the public address system in the subterranean canteen at 200 Oxford Street, where the Indian Section of the BBC was based, was — they said — the prototype of Big Brother.

Basing himself on fresh Orwell material unexpectedly discovered in the BBC's Written Archives, Mr West has set out to be more precise in defining the inspiration of both 1984 and Animal Farm. What he found was a considerable body of correspondence both internal and external to the BBC, and to Orwell, some rather uninteresting scripts and the adaptation by him of a short story by Ignazio Silone.

Much of the correspondence consists of the trivial of Orwell's job, which was largely that of running talks on *Eng Lit* based on the BA course at Calcutta University. That this should have been the main war-effort of a radical and highly political author at a time when presumably those people in India — the intellectuals and politicians — who might have been motivated to listen to London, had more pressing things on their minds (the possibility of a Japanese invasion, the struggle for independence) is in itself highly Orwellian. All the more so since, as Orwell recorded in his diary, "our broadcasts are utterly useless since, nobody listens to them."

From this material Mr West strains at the task of discovering possible sources of the inspiration for Orwell's dystopias. Perhaps inevitably he

produces little concrete evidence. He speculates that a talks series on world geography might have given Orwell the idea for the three super-powers of 1984; that another on future sociological and technological developments might have set his mind working in that direction; that Basic English, that curious attempt to establish a universal language in which the government and the BBC were interested, was the model for Newspeak; and that the Silone short story provided the idea for Animal Farm.

While the first two conjectures are plausible the second is wrong-headed, for Newspeak aims at mystification while Basic aims at clarity. It was therefore, as Orwell pointed out in a letter to Basil's inventor, C. K. Ogden, not well adapted for news broadcasts, which demanded "the necessary amount of vagueness while giving the interest as much definiteness as can be risked."

Nor is the second any better founded, for it is based on the total error of assuming that because the main character — an Italian peasant from the Ticino — has a pig and a pig-sty (which Italian peasant did not?) he is working on a pig-farm.

But perhaps the real inspiration for the dystopias was under Mr West's nose all the time: in the picture of Eliot, Forster (whom Orwell was dunning, on behalf of the BBC, for the price of a lost library book), Lehmann and other minor figures broadcasted into the void. Or in the confidential memo by one of Orwell's superiors defending the use of Kingsley Martin, editor of the New Statesman, who was an outspoken critic of the government, on the grounds that he was an ideal contributor "provided he was prepared to come down in favour of the Government's attitude."

and economy. Inevitably the murky waters of secret records, a patriarch or an early Christian saint.

There was Evelyn Waugh, always in the writer's experience (though she concedes that she may have been lucky) "a perfect friend." Some of the jokes have acquired a macabre ring, like the economic grave-digger's quip from Derek Jackson that "soon it won't be how many pounds to the pound but how many pounds to the dollar."

Others are in the realm of upper folklore, like the one about the hostess (Mrs Greville in this version) who fears that her butler is about to disgrace her dinner party and hands him a note saying "You are drunk — leave the room." Whereupon he lays it on his salver and delivers it to ... Sir Robert Home? Sir Austen Chamberlain? The Archbishop of Canterbury?

We shall never know the authentic version; or perhaps some stories are too good to be true.

War changes everything
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THE CAMOMILE LAWN



MARY WESLEY

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BLACK SWAN

How Auden settled for 'the wrong blond'

John Bayley reviews a new memoir of the poet 'obsessed with loving.'

THE LIVES of all great poets are a part of their poetry and cannot be separated from it. This would be as true of Homer, of whom we know nothing, as it is of Milton or Goethe, Byron or Mandelstam, about whom we know a great deal, some would say far too much. "One life, one writing," wrote Robert Lowell, and recent poets, like he and John Berryman, have sought to present the two together, an independent whole, the life as art and the art as life.

Too conscious the process may have become and yet it seems natural enough. Auden, however, would have strongly disapproved. Old fashioned in this as in other ways he would have felt with Jane Austen and Henry James that the writer's life was in no case the reader's concern. He wished for his biography; attempted to leave instructions against one.

His reasons may have been less straightforward than he would have admitted. His life had no figure in the carpet, no untrigging skeletons, none of the reserved sacrament, as it were, which makes the profane so inquisitive about history. It was just an amiable mess, in which anything went, everything hung out.

Not that Auden had the instincts or morals of a Bohemian far from it, but his life had nothing mysterious about it, no hidden clue for the biographical sleuth to get after. Perhaps, as many of us would, he feared the nothing

that might be revealed rather than the too much.

Humphrey Carpenter and Edward Mendelson have already gone over the ground biographically in a conscientious way and revealed at some length what might in any case have been guessed. Auden in Love is an amiable title, provided we do not expect new revelations, and do not take it as adding anything of significance to our image of the poet.

"He became his admirers," Auden wrote of the moment the poet died, in his elegy for Yeats; and Valery celebrated in his poem on Poe's tomb the louché figure changed at last by eternity into himself as he really is. Dead poets do not change but anything further we hear about them has the interest that belongs to a special relationship.

Dorothy Farman's shrewd and good-natured memoir begins from the evening of April 6, 1939, with Auden reading that elegy for Yeats from manuscript at an evening organised by the League of American Writers, a left-wing organisation popular in the thirties. He himself was 36 and had just arrived in New York with Christopher Isherwood. Among the admiring audience were a group of students from Brooklyn College, who afterwards managed to get into the room. Chester Kallman was one of them. The following day he called at Auden's apartment.

When it comes will it come with just as I'm picking my nose?



W. H. Auden
Auden in Love, by Dorothy J. Farman (Faber, £3.95)

Auden had written in his facetious poem about love the year before. It did, though at the instant of meeting Auden stepped next door into the room where Isherwood was writing letters and remarked tersely: "It's the wrong blonde." By the evening it was clearly very much the right one, however, and a marriage began which ended only with Auden's death in 1972.

In a sense with Kallman's too, less than two years later. Although he caused the poet years of grief and jealousy he came to love him, but without his "criticism," as he rather strangely referred to Auden. To adapt earlier poetic epitaph admired by Auden:

He died the first; he for a little tried
To live without him, liked it not,
and died.

Auden's ego had sheltered Kallman like the wings of the dove and its removal was the end of him. Though he had the same faults of envy and destructiveness, Kallman was the opposite of that archetypal diabolic boyfriend, Lord Alfred Douglas. He needed to be loved, and the older man needed to love him.

Kallman refused any permanent sexual relations with Auden and disclaimed any notion of possession of fidelity, although Auden paid for and looked after him and found him his job. Auden suffered much, and seemed at one point at the end of the war to be thinking seriously of a permanent sexual relation with Rose Jaffe, an attractive, merry but humourless girl whose one absorbing interest was in psychology and her friends.

On this basis, and also apparently in bed, she and Auden got on very well. They remained great friends, and Auden afterwards said it had not affected him at all that it was a "sin" and felt like "cheating."

Girls in the offing would be likely to have a vague cut time. Chester had met Dorothy and Mary Valentine in Ann Arbor and adopted the pair when they came to New York. "My Mary and Dorothy period," as he referred to it, certainly changed their lives. Chester found them jobs and looked after them like a brother. Mary fell in love with him, as

girls tended to do, and eventually married his father, a big, clever, ebullient Jewish dentist. Auden was a benevolent presence.

The shy pair from religious homes in the middle west blossomed in New York, and Dorothy's memoir conveys very well the heady atmosphere of those post-war days, the parties, the summer shack on Fire Island, Auden at the opera immaculate in hired tuxedo but still wearing his bedroom slippers.

Dorothy remarks that Auden's tragedy was that "nobody ever loved him the way he wanted to be loved." The impression rather is that like many dominant figures of power organising capability, he was not interested in being loved, other than through the receipt of mere sexual gratification, but extremely obsessed with loving. This was not all ego, he would have liked to own Kallman, who refused to be owned.

But whatever was tragic in the relationship was also suited to it and to both men, and Auden always compared their meeting with the recognition scene between Siegmund and Sieglinde in the first act of Die Walküre. Before that moment, "All that I had ever seen was strange, I never found a friend near me."

Auden's greatest poetry was perhaps already written when they met, but Kallman was probably the muse who kept him a poet till his last day.

Women in love and other dilemmas

Hilary Bailey reviews the best of the week's new fiction

Solstice, by Joyce Carol Oates (Cape, £3.95).
A Simple Mistake, by Dorothy Grey (Sheba Feminist Publishers, £4.95).

In the early days of their relationship, a woman and a man, mistress living in rural Pennsylvania after a divorce, sees the brusquely named Trask, a big local landowner and talented artist, on a powerful chestnut horse, Trask, frequently outlined in the language of popular romances, has black, rapacious (or gypsyish) eyes, an arrogant stance and goes white with anger. She even has heavy black eyebrows, for, rich, ruthless and pursued by a daemon as she is, this Trask is a woman: Sheila Trask.

Is it a spoof, we wonder, designed to throw light on women's fantasies in life and fiction? On the other hand, if it's ironic, aren't there too many compulsive references to the Trask glamour, not just in terms of rapacious eyes, but also of broad acres, careless wealth and silver chafing dishes? Are the reader supposed to see her as the object of a woman's desire? Or is it her friend Monica who does? Or the author?

Confusion mounts as the submissive Monica helps dominant Sheila to clear up the mansion, sort the bills and organise the one-woman show. But is it the history of a love affair, of a demanding friendship or, as seems to be finally indicated, about getting up mixed with an artist who demands a human life to feed the work?

Perhaps Joyce Carol Oates, showing us a woman with a loyal, wife-like person backing up her life and work is just showing it up for nothing, that this doesn't really happen to women. Nevertheless, in spite of what looks like a wealth of conflicting authorial ideas and no firm authorial guide, the book still sparkles. Here are brilliant scenes, about people, about landscapes. Joyce Carol Oates can cope with variety and multiplicity; the lack of a firm line makes Solstice an enjoyable ride undertaken not for the journey but for the scenery.

Sarah Phillips, by Andrea Lee (Faber, £3.95).
My Merry Morning, by Ivan Klima (Readers International, £3.95).

Charmless in the extreme, A Simple Mistake has few of the virtues present in, and many absent from, the previous novel. It starts with Jean, a student, marrying Stephen and having a child. Coming from a lower middle-class and poverty-stricken culture, where questions aren't asked and ideas and feelings not discussed, because the language isn't there to use, he is depressed but scarcely knows why.

The very prose of the book expresses this struggle. In fact, at first the reader wonders what he or she is doing with this leaden book, why any publisher saw fit to print it. Then, slowly, the sheer dogged integrity of the presentation of the evidence begins to convince.

There is no artifice. It is an account, a testimony almost, about the unmelodramatic, steady drag of many women's lives, as they were and mostly still are, as a weapon to attack every two readers of this book will throw it at the wall — the other will put it down feeling strangely impressed.

Andrea Lee's heroine, Sarah Phillips, is first found in Paris, in a state of semi-collapse after a bohemian life — a life she was not brought up for, as the clever and lively daughter of a black pastor in the suburbs of Philadelphia. When in a state of semi-collapse, she sketches the author writes, in a brilliant and sophisticated way, of Sarah's early childhood and schooling until, after the death of her father, she prepares to leave — for Paris. Full circle, but although the experience is vividly conveyed you can't quite see the point of it all.

Ivan Klima is no longer published in his native Czechoslovakia and his quite a-political, factory manager, tell you. Against a barely mentioned, massive and clumsy state organisation individuals prefer anything from a few planks to build a house to hundreds of sheets from a hospital, pitting their

resources against a state which has eliminated fellow-feeling while not producing much in the way of material assets. So, as indifferently-treated patients die in hospital, behind the scenes every day, his and low is trying to make, and have, a bit on the side. Everybody's in it, everybody's at it; nobody cares.

The only hint that there might be a better state of affairs come from humour and cynicism. As the author says, after he and a friend have tried, and failed, to make a small Christmas killing in the illicit carp business: "In my mind's eye I could see all those conspirators, stealthily advancing on our fish tank under cover of the frosty night; our manager leading the way, followed by Mr Konas the butcher and the yellow-haired Daniela and all the greengrocers and Party secretaries, factory managers and bribed supervisors, coal merchants and corrupt newspapermen... Each and every one of them thrusting greedy hands into our tank and scuttling away with our carp..."

her own erotic and demonic legend as a weapon to attack the taboos and pieties of 19th century Victorianism. As few radicals in her own or for that matter our time have, she embodied the sexuality of politics. Emma was not your textbook feminist heroine, not in real life. The "deliberate self-mythologising, the martyred stance, the messianic tone" could be both irksome and inspiring. Though she insisted "on making sense of a central concern of her politics," it took her almost a lifetime to break from the misogynistic influences of Proudhon and Bakunin. Indeed, at first, "as one of a very few prominent women in a predominantly male (anarchist) movement, Emma did not easily identify with other women or see herself as part of a community of women."

Yet gradually her personal experiences — with women in prison, with her lovers Alexander Berkman and especially the freebooter Reitman — softened and complicated her. In the end, as Wexler notes, she helped to give a feminist dimension to anarchism and a libertarian dimension to women's emancipation.

Refreshingly, she didn't give a damn about stepping on her comrades' toes. To radicals who whined about social victimisation, Emma demanded an almost Reaganite ethic of personal responsibility. And she came not only to blaming women for their own subordination but also for "women's inhumanity to men," as mothers and wives creating the kind of men who crippled their own as well as women's lives.

Wexler's fine book sheds new light on Goldman's private life, and on how this relates to, and often contradicts, her official positions. And beyond this, how Emma "used

Emma's legend

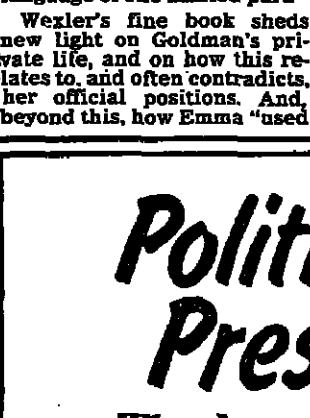
by Clancy Sigal

Emma Goldman: An Intimate Life, by Alice Wexler (Virago, £12.95).

THERE is a superficially sensational core to Alice Wexler's "intimate" life of Emma Goldman — which is in fact a solid, well-judged and acutely intelligent biography.

The surprise — at least to those of us who accepted Goldman's four photographs at face value — is that "Red Emma," theoretical apostle of free love and mortal enemy of any emotional or institutional constraint, the bound woman to a man, was madly, wildly, sexually dependent on her lecture manager and comrade, the "hobo doctor" Ben Reitman.

As Wexler notes, "Goldman left extraordinary record of this tumultuous affair in a flood of astonishing letters filled with erotic intensity." Reitman awakened Goldman, hitherto afraid of men, to "the sublime madness of sex." These letters do in fact reveal a more intimate, contradic-



Emma Goldman

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Les Boys and Girls

by Michael Billington

O.U.D.S. by Humphrey Carpenter (Oxford, £12.95).

NIGEL LAWSON was one of *Les Boys* in Dick Whittington supporting Ned Sherrin's Fairy. Shirley Catlin's (better known as Shirley Williams) Cordelia was "attractive, sympathetic but possessed with the family temper."

Richard Burton's Angelo, according to one critic, "has a good voice but uses it monotonously and has not much else."

Random facts gleaned from Humphrey Carpenter's excellent century history of the Oxford University Dramatic Society, but indicative of one of the book's pleasures: watching the future-famous revealing themselves at an early age as they flit across the undergraduate stage.

Mr Carpenter has a good story to tell and he tells it well. He digs back into the early academic resistance to student theatre, quotes in full the young Oscar Wilde's

notice of the OUD's opening Henry IV Part One which is garnished with wise saws ("An audience looks at a tragedian but a comedian looks at his audience").

But, though rich in anecdote, the book is anything but a sentimental tribute to the glorious past. It makes it clear that OUD's reputation rests on two great periods: one in the late Twenties and early Thirties when students could work alongside professionals like Komisarjevsky, Gielgud, Ashcroft, Evans, the other in the post-war period of Tynan and Tony Richardson when undergraduates were much older. What emerges is that Oxford theatre (like the university itself) has long been eccentric, wayward, muddled and given to occasional spurts of brilliance.

It needs now, as it always has, three things: imported professional directors, a purpose-built playhouse, acceptance of drama as an academic subject.

Mr Carpenter has come up with a first-rate book that will not only appeal to those who ever graced, or disgraced, an Oxford stage but that also provides fascinating social history and says a lot about the English attitude to drama as an enjoyable diversion unworthy of profound study.

THE LOST NOVEL BY

Graham Greene

The Tenth Man

"The discovery of *The Tenth Man* is one of the undoubted literary pleasures of the year."

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John Carey, SUNDAY TIMES

... vintage Greene... For many a lesser author it would have been the peak of a lifetime's writing."

Graham Lord, SUNDAY EXPRESS

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THE BODLEY HEAD / ANTHONY BLOND

Politics of Pressure

The Art of Lobbying

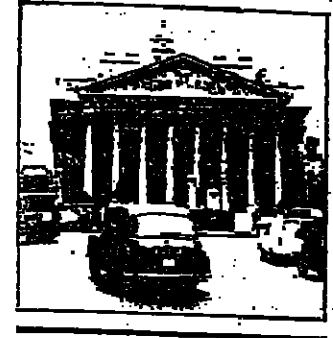
In this intriguing book Malcolm Davies examines how pressure groups organise to influence the decision-makers of Whitehall and Westminster. He looks at such initiatives as the Consumers' Association crusade to break the conveyancing monopoly; the influential lobby that protested against cuts in arts funding; and Ken Livingstone's "Save the GLC" campaign. The book includes comments from many leading activists interviewed for the BBC TV programmes.

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سكزا من الاصل

There's now a serious danger they will squeeze the money supply too hard



NOTEBOOK
Edited by
Hamish McRae

SO THE authorities are now explicitly following their tougher fiscal policy with a tighter monetary policy. Can this be wise?

the market's desire to cut base rates by a full 1 per cent might of itself be justified by natural central bankers' caution. There is some sense in loosening interest rates by small degrees, just as in a sensible world the authorities would permit interest rates to rise by small amounts instead of first resisting upward pressure, then panicking and hiking rates by a couple of per cent.

So in isolation the half per cent move is fine: it could be followed by another half per cent in a couple of weeks, suggesting that the next set of money supply figures are all right, and that sterling continues to be reasonably strong.

We may well get that, but a per cent early next month, with a clear shift of policy has taken place. The Chancellor is understood to want money supply to be held to the middle of the two target ranges, not just to squeeze in under the top limit. The message is that there is going to be a bumpy period on the exchanges and this calls for a degree of caution in UK monetary policy.

It seems therefore that though there is no target for sterling (as always) the authorities are anticipating and accepting some further rise in the pound against the dollar. Oil tax revenues will have been forecast to allow for a rise in the sterling dollar rate.

What sterling does against the European currencies is another matter, but one motive for caution on interest rates may well be to prevent the pound being pulled down part of the way with the dollar if the dollar does indeed collapse in the coming months.

You can understand the current caution after the bruising the Government received from the markets in January, but that does not deflect from the fact that they are now in danger of making the opposite mistake. They may squeeze too hard.

The trouble with the application of monetary policy is that you need some sort of sixth sense to gauge how hard to play it.

The Chancellor is quite right to insist that monetary policy is judgmental. The trouble is he and his advisers keep on making the wrong judgments.

Last autumn money supply fell too loose, but the authorities kept on insisting that interest rates had to come down. Now money supply feels too tight, but they want to hold interest rates up.

Why does it feel too tight? Well, there is the exchange rate. House prices have come off the boil. The equity market is no longer quite so absurdly buoyant. Real interest rates do need to remain high. But we need base rates at, say, 12 per cent, not 13! Not to keep the brakes on inflation.

Exchange rate

WHAT IS a reasonable price for the pound? Some basic principles. The exchange is a physical entity which has been built up over the years by its members. You don't build 26-odd floors on the most expensive real estate in the world for nothing. Its telecommunications and information systems have been paid for by its members and they just deserve some rewards.

Similarly, one does not want to follow the Tokyo stock exchange system which prices membership at such a level to exclude members. Nor does one want the New York stock exchange system where the supply is artificially restricted to give existing practitioners enough money to buy pensions and then filter them abroad.

On the top figures the exchange is worth \$46 million — which wouldn't even buy

you a quarter slice of Harrods or a medium-sized newspaper publishing company. Some stockbrokers looking at this valuation might think they are pricing themselves too cheaply.

However, there is genuine dilemma. The exchange has a near monopoly on British share trading, but that monopoly will crumble very fast were the exchange to over-price itself. Besides, you could argue that the trading floor could become akin to one of our defunct steel plants north of the Wash within a decade. The Robert Flemings of this world, even the Japanese securities houses, could easily develop parallel trading systems outside the exchange once SIB gets going, if the price was too high. Small stockbrokers with a special role to play must see this.

One of the surprises in the white paper which emerged from the exchange spontaneously is the new category of "representative". This is a welcome development which will ensure another layer of protection to investors in the new marketplace. The "RRs" — who will have to take new exams — will cover any employees who give advice to the public on behalf of firms. A lesson for the booming fraternity of investment advisers outside the exchange?

Leaving a gap

EUROPEAN exporters and their governments yesterday lost a friend at the court in Washington when President Reagan appointed Mr. William Brock as his new Labour Secretary, replacing Mr. Raymond Donovan who resigned last week to face trial on Mafia-linked charges of bribery and fraud.

Until now Mr. Brock has been US Trade representative at the White House with cabinet rank, and is regarded by European governments as a conciliatory Thatcher's — as conciliatory

and fair in his negotiations over sensitive trade issues like EEC steel imports. Though tougher on the Japanese, who now boast a \$3 billion trade surplus with the US, Mr. Brock was much more resistant to protectionist pressures than the Commerce Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Baldrige, who remains at his post. Mr. Baldrige is more susceptible to US corporate pleading.

Though protectionist pressures have recently been mounting as the full cost of the over-valued dollar to American industry became apparent, the significance of the move yesterday was that the one-term Republican senator and former party chairman might rebuild some bridges with organised labour.

"Anyone who has spent four years negotiating international trade can negotiate with almost anyone," President Reagan said when making the announcement. True, but he leaves a gap.

Pilot scheme will offer full range of services to supermarket customers

Midland puts banks in Tesco stores

By Mary Easler

Tesco and Midland Bank are joining forces to provide financial services on the supermarket floor. The bank and the stores group are planning to launch a pilot personal banking scheme this year in a small number of Tesco stores.

Under the banner "Midland Bank at Tesco", the clearing bank will take space within a store to offer a complete range of services to personal customers.

Midland says the outlets will

be exactly the same as normal branch banks and will provide cheque cashing, loan facilities, mortgages, savings accounts and Thomas Cook travel money. The scheme comes at a time when retailers are increasingly aware of their potential for selling financial services.

Next month Anglia Building Society and the Boston Trust are due to start a pilot scheme in British Home Stores which will offer cash machines, financial services, and insurance. But Midland is the first of the

big clearing banks to venture into shops.

Mr. Michael Fuller, of the Midland, said yesterday that the move was the development of a strategy to meet specific consumer needs. "We are moulding traditional and well-tried banking concepts to meet new and rapidly changing conditions."

The pilot scheme will start in June at Tesco's hundredth superstore, due to open on the North Circular Road in Neasden, London. Two more Midland Bank outlets are

Mixed reaction to SE plans

By Margaret Pagano, City Correspondent

STOCK EXCHANGE proposals to allow the transfer of an £8 million block of shares in the company in order to smooth the path of the £615 million takeover bid being made by the Egyptian Al-Fayed brothers.

The two million shares held by the German bankers, R. Daus and Co. were frozen by a Scottish court in 1982 after Fraser complained it was unable to discover the ultimate ownership of the holding. The order freezes the transfer of the shares, the use of voting rights, and the payment of dividends on the stock.

Fraser wants the court to lift the restriction on transferring the shares to enable the Al-Fayed's 400p-a-share offer to be accepted in respect of the Daus shareholding. But it also wants the proceeds to be retained by the court until the ultimate beneficial owner of the shares comes forward to claim the money.

The department stores group made its application after Daus had put in its own application to which they are asked to accept the offer and sell the shares to the Al-Fayed. If the Daus application were to succeed, the shares would change hands

Fraser's court move to end shares freeze

By Geoffrey Gibbs

House of Fraser directors are asking the Scottish courts to allow the transfer of an £8 million block of shares in the company in order to smooth the path of the £615 million takeover bid being made by the Egyptian Al-Fayed brothers.

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The department stores group made its application after Daus had put in its own application to which they are asked to accept the offer and sell the shares to the Al-Fayed. If the Daus application were to succeed, the shares would change hands

without any further disclosure of their ownership.

Last summer Daus sought to overturn the year and a half old freeze on the 1.3 per cent shareholding after reaching a conditional agreement to sell the shares to the Egyptian millionaire, Dr. Ashraf Marwan. The application was refused by three top Scottish judges who said they were not satisfied that all the relevant facts about the shares had been disclosed to the House of Fraser.

The latest applications to the Court of Sessions in Edinburgh will not be heard until documents setting out the Al-Fayed offer have been sent to shareholders. The offer, which had been expected to go out yesterday, is now due to be posted late on Friday after delays caused by last week's meetings with the department of Trade and Industry.

A reversal of the freeze on the Daus shareholding would make it easier for the Al-Fayed brothers to gain full control of the business. They already own about 52 per cent of the shares and must acquire 90 per cent of the shares for which they are asked to accept the offer and sell the shares to the Al-Fayed. If the Daus application were to succeed, the shares would change hands

Unity Trust enters personal banking

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

Unity Trust, the banking house established last year by the trade union movement and the Co-op Bank, is to start offering some personal banking services in the autumn, including loans, mortgages and Visa card facilities. It will not offer a cheque book service.

The trust is, however, already providing a combined credit deposit account for trade union branches on which it is currently paying 11.5 per cent interest on cleared balances. In a test run with branches of the National Union of Railwaysmen it is now handling some £1 million. The general manager, Mr. Terry Thomas, said yesterday that after the tests the trust would be actively marketing the scheme among unions and other corporate bodies.

The trust's president, Mr. David Bassett, general secretary of the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union, is appealing to unions to channel all the funds under their direct control or indirect influence through the trust.

The trust has equity of £4 million subscribed by 40 unions and, pound for pound, the Co-op, and total balances of £16 million. Its medium-term potential market is the £80

million liquid assets of the trade union movement. Its lending policy is biased towards socially useful projects.

Current schemes include a number of housing developments, the relocation of a union headquarters, and the development of a former army barracks in the West Midlands as a site for industrial units, housing, a leisure complex and a supermarket. The executive director, Mr. Dave Dickman, said the trust hoped to become involved in the subsequent developments on the site. Its commitment is limited to £400,000 on any one project but the trust is keen to engage other banks in joint ventures.

Other City institutions were proving friendly once their initial suspicions about the commercial viability of a trade union-based bank were overcome with the help of the trust's well-researched history of involvement of unions in banking in other countries, Mr. Thomas said.

In the very long term — 40 years plus — union engagement in banking could change the industrial relations climate, Mr. Thomas said. Unions in West Germany were less strike-prone because of the inside knowledge of financial and industrial affairs their banking involvement gave them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE Department of Trade and Industry has sent its first set of suspected fraudulent multiple applications during last year's £2.9 billion Telecom share sale to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Peat Marwick Mitchell, the accountancy firm hired to police the share issue, weeded out several hundred speculators who made obvious multiple applications, and mounted an intensive search to catch others who had been more skilful.

By Christmas eight or nine speculators had been identified and charges worth up to £1 million had been cashed and held in a special account. Investigators found that some speculators had organised syndicates sending in hundreds of very small applications, many in forged names.

THE Bank of England pension fund, which has assets of £270 million, is setting up a special £1 million fund for equity investment in small businesses in Britain.

WOOLWORTH has snapped up Mike Sommers from International Stores to become the group's new marketing director responsible for market research and sales promotion. Mr. Sommers, 35, left International after it was taken over by Dees Corporation. He has worked for Becthams, J. Walter Thompson and CPC (UK).

SIR Alex Jarratt, chairman of Reed International for 11 years, is retiring on July 31, and is handing over to Mr. Leslie Carpenter, the chief executive, who will take on the chairmanship too.

THE A.J. Gooding Group is negotiating to buy the Servis washing machine company from the receiver. But a sticking point is its demand for shop-floor disputes to be settled by an Aca-argued "umpire" causing the West Midlands Enterprise Board to hang fire on putting in £750,000. Mr. Terry Duffy, president of the engineering union, meets the company today for talks.

Japan takes export lead as trade grows

By John Hooper, Trade Correspondent

The Japanese have taken over from the Germans as the world's top salesmen. According to a preliminary assessment by the GATT secretariat, Japan became the world's biggest exporter of manufactured goods last year, edging West Germany out of a position she has held since 1970.

The report shows that the recovery in world trade which began in 1983 speeded up dramatically last year. The volume of trade grew by 9 per cent in 1984, with Japan's only 2 per cent in 1983.

More goods were traded internationally than ever before. But, said the GATT secretariat, when compared with previous recoveries, last year's was nothing exceptional. A series of overall volume of world trade expanded less rapidly than during the 1968 recovery and at about the same pace as during the 1976 recovery.

The "engine" of last year's growth was the reinvigorated

American economy. Imports into the United States accounted for more than half the increase in the value of world trade. In 1983 and 1976, the comparable figure was around a quarter.

Japan also participated to a greater extent than before, according to the report, on the export side than the import side. But Western Europe's role was considerably smaller in both respects.

"This was a reflection of the expansion in the West. Industrial production rose by 10 per cent in the US and Japan, but by only 3 per cent in Western Europe."

It was this imbalance, more than any other factor, which explained why the growth in trade did not — as previously — ease the international tensions over trade issues. The secretariat made no specific appeal for a further round of negotiations within the framework of GATT but it is clear that its officials regard the latest figures as convincing evidence for one.

Federal guarantees ease Ohio bank crisis

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The Ohio general assembly yesterday launched its lifeline for the state's savings and loans which have been closed for six days. The Ohio bill, which is being generally credited with triggering the declines in the \$2 billion which started this week.

As a result of the bill passed yesterday the Ohio savings and loans will now be able to apply for federal guarantees in a move which is hoped will restore investor confidence. The 70 state-chartered Ohio savings and loans closed last week after the state placed with them by some \$500,000 investors.

The governor of Ohio, Mr. Richard Celeste, said he expected the first of the savings and loans, the broad equivalent of Britain's building societies, to open their doors today, almost a week after they were forced to take an involuntary bank holiday. He said that most of the savings and loans would open in "several days to several weeks."

But there have been repeated reports that only 30 of the closures meet the rigorous federal standards required to qualify for guarantees, so the fate of the rest of the savings institutions remains uncertain. A series of mergers seems the most likely outcome.

The run on the savings and loans was caused by the problem of the state savings bank which lost up to \$100 million when a Florida government securities dealer collapsed.

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Alex Fletcher gets tough

By Peter Rodgers

New clauses in the insolvency bill to be submitted to a House of Lords committee today give the Secretary for Trade and Industry complete discretion in deciding whether a court should be asked to disqualify a company director.

The clauses confirm that the Corporate and Consumer Affairs Minister Mr. Alex Fletcher has dropped his proposal for automatic disqualification of directors involved in compulsory liquidation and instead gone back to a tougher version of the existing law. The Lords have already rejected the Fletcher plan. At present the Secretary of

State can ask a court to disqualify a director who has been involved in two failures, but there have only been a handful of cases. The new proposal would allow him to act on the basis of a liquidator or receiver's report, after one failure. Mr. Fletcher has also dropped the distinction between voluntary and compulsory liquidation.

There are also amendments to the way penalties are imposed on directors who are found to have traded wrongfully, and there will be clearer guidance on what the Government sees as the meaning of "unfitness to serve as a director."

UNIMATION, Britain's largest producer of industrial robots, yesterday launched a new workhorse, a range of lifting 44lb weights, and assembling, inspecting, sealing and welding within an automated factory. The Telcord factory, backed by Westinghouse of the US, uses 98 per cent UK components. The new robot doubles the lifting capacity of its current range.

Britoil takes US stake

BRITTOIL yesterday announced that it had bought a further stake in the American oil and gas business, worth \$84 million. The deal, announced by Freeport-McMoran of New York, involves more than 50 billion cubic feet of proven gas reserves, mainly in Montana, Colorado and Texas, extensive exploration acreage, and a 25 per cent interest in two gas processing plants.

The money will come from Britoil's own funds. It is the latest of several US purchases by the company which has now spent \$160 million on the other side of the Atlantic.

work in a few weeks of heat the budget panic. They believe the publicity given to the tax on pensions rumour has generally heightened the public's awareness of making provision for their retirement and enlarged the market as a whole.

To support this, much of the recent business was done by policyholders topping up old, and now inadequate, pensions. Another large chunk of money went into regular annual premium policies rather than in single premiums in the hope that, by establishing a foothold, customers would be allowed to continue with tax relief if new policies had been exempted.

Junior's out

By Maggie Brown

IBM, the world's largest computer company, is abandoning the home computer market next month when it ends production of the IBM-PC Junior model, which since its launch in November 1983 has been sold only within the US. It will continue to make software and parts, and service existing machines. The move might give some relief to UK manufacturers, although IBM UK says there were no plans to market it here.

Mackay Carpets
Manufacturers of Durham Carpets

Results for the year ended 31st December 1984

	1984	1983
Group Sales — UK	£9,524	£7,255
— Overseas	5,167	3,852
	14,691	11,107
Profit before tax	659	361
Extraordinary profit (Sale of surplus land)	289	—
Earnings per share	8.31p	4.91p
Dividend per share	4.60p	4.00p

● Volumes increased 21% both at home and abroad. Exports were 35% of sales with notable advances in Europe.

● Hugh Mackay Carpets Inc was established in New York to control the development of our trading future in the USA.

● Special Products division in its first full year expanded its "non-woven" product range and traded profitably in the second half.

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Year Ended 30th September 1984	1984	1983
Turnover	£72,228	£26,381
Profit before Taxation	7,586	11,747
Dividends Distributed	2,776	2,538

Shareholders Funds £73.9m (Issued Capital and Reserves)
Fixed Assets £69.2m
Number of Shareholders 3,924
Value of Group's Properties £35.0m

Capital Employed £92.4m
Net Current Assets £19.5m
Number of Employees 5,769
Number of Apprentices 40

Copies of the 1984 Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Minor Offices, Old Road, Chertsey, Surrey.

KENNING MOTOR GROUP plc

Insurers toast budget bonanza

By Margaret Dibben, Money Editor

"Insurance companies have double cause for budget celebration today. Not only is the industry's campaign to keep pensions out of the Chancellor's taxation grip a complete success, but the rumours that the budget will have been done as much as in the previous year."

Scottish Amicable reckons that the March individual pension business is 500 per cent up on last year's and has been written four times as many Section 226 policies.

On Budget Day alone, Legal & General processed 1,300 applications for pension schemes

have produced staggering numbers.

"We have completed as much business so far this month as in the whole of last year in some individual pension areas," said Sun Life. It was the same story at M & G.

At a rough guess in the four weeks to the budget we have done as much as in the previous year."

Scottish Amicable reckons that the March individual pension business is 500 per cent up on last year's and has been written four times as many Section 226 policies.

On Budget Day alone, Legal & General processed 1,300 applications for pension schemes

whereas the normal number at this traditionally busy time of year is 200 a day. The Prudential stopped counting at the end of February because they were getting so busy but in the first two months of the year wrote 28,000 policies, an increase of 160 per cent.

This has meant bulging overtime packets for the office staff. All the companies have been working overtime often until 10 at night and at weekends while some have called in temporary workers to keep up with the mountain of paper.

Neither is the companies' exuberance diluted by the thought that they might simply have done their whole year's

work in a few weeks of heat the budget panic. They believe the publicity given to the tax on pensions rumour has generally heightened the public's awareness of making provision for their retirement and enlarged the market as a whole.

To support this, much of the recent business was done by policyholders topping up old, and now inadequate, pensions. Another large chunk of money went into regular annual premium policies rather than in single premiums in the hope that, by establishing a foothold, customers would be allowed to continue with tax relief if new policies had been exempted.

CHINESE
PERSPECTIVES

NANJING ROAD is Shanghai's main shopping centre. Even on an unexceptional midweek afternoon with most of the population at work, it is more crowded than Oxford Street at the height of the Christmas rush. From above it looks as if two vast human rivers are moving in opposite directions along either pavement. If you are walking with friends, it is advisable to link arms to avoid being separated. Many of the stores employ special crowd control officials with flags and whistles to prevent people getting trampled or crushed.

It only takes a walk down Nanjing Road to see why foreign businessmen get so excited about China's potential.

But numbers are not everything. One of the first things that strikes you about China is the poverty. You do not have to stray far in any of the main cities before you find yourself in a world of open sewers, earthen streets and lamplit hovels in which figures can be dimly glimpsed dining off a meagre ration of noodles.

China's per capita income is a mere \$200 a year, which is lower than that of the Central African Republic. The aim of her leaders is to boost it to \$1,000 by the end of the century.

But it is by no means a foregone conclusion that they will do so. Perhaps the main reason for scepticism is the time it can take to get things done in China — a reflection of Chinese perfectionism and the cumbersome bureaucracy.

The problem is particularly acute with regard to anything involving foreigners. Even a modest contract takes a minimum of a year

In the second of two articles, John Hooper looks at the opportunities — and problems — facing British business in China

Absent friends

to negotiate. Today, for all the talk of international fellowship, foreigners in China still have to live in special compounds and stay in special hotels. They even have their own money.

China, moreover, was colonised by means of trade, so foreign businessmen are objects of particular suspicion. Against this background, it is not difficult to see that the proponents of economic progress who currently have the upper hand in Peking, and who need overseas help if they are to achieve their aims, are acutely susceptible to charges from their opponents that they are being taken for a ride by foreign traders.

Much of the obstinacy which the Chinese display in negotiations can be put down to this. "A Chinese official does not gain any credit for wrapping up a deal quickly," said a businessman who has spent many months there in recent years.

China plans to have 260,000 MW of electricity generating capacity by the year 2000, but, said one foreign engineering executive in Peking, "at this rate, there is no way on earth that they will be able to fulfil that plan on time."

A further reason for scepticism derives from the way that the Chinese insist that business be done. Understandably, they do not just want to buy goods — as so many other Third World countries have done — but to learn how to make them themselves. Hence the emphasis on joint ventures.

This works for a wide range of activities (although there is growing concern among foreign businessmen that the time scales imposed by the Chinese may be too short for them to turn a

profit). But there are certain areas where it might well be in China's own interest to fork out cash for the sake of ease and speed.

"I think that the Chinese have got to bite the bullet," said a banker. "They must be prepared to pay for certain things like energy and transport projects out of their foreign reserves."

That, then, is the down side. The up side has two aspects — one short-term and one long-term. The first is that, for the moment under the influence of Deng Xiaoping's reforms, China is one of the world's few growing, debt-free markets. The second is that, even if it takes them longer than they estimate to reach their goal, the Chinese are building an immensely sound basis for the future.

The question is not so much whether foreign businesses can afford to become involved in China, as whether they can afford not to.

So far, Britain's performance in the China market has been abysmal. We do less trade with China than with Greece, Turkey or Oman. As Lord Young pointed out in Peking, if Britain had the same share of the Chinese market as it does of the world market (7 per cent) it would be selling £1.75 billion a year — five times last year's figure.

There are in fact reasons why Britain should provide a lower than average proportion of China's imports. First, there is the overwhelming presence of the Japanese, who alone account for a quarter of the market. Second, a high percentage of what China buys is made up of commodities. This is why the US, Canada, Australia and even France score highly, because they provide

What China wants is this kind of technology of 10 years ago, not that of today or tomorrow

her with wheat. West Germany supplies steel.

But so great is the discrepancy between Britain's performance in China and her performance in the rest of the world, that some further explanation is needed.

Breaking into the Chinese market requires perseverance and imagination and, with honourable exceptions, British exporters have not shown very much of either. The British, one banker complained, become impatient and disillusioned too quickly and they are suspicious of the whole idea of joint ventures.

The government would add that they have also suffered as a result of Hong Kong. That is not the view of the British business community in China, nor of Sino-British trade experts in London. They argue that the Hong Kong problem was never a handicap, but that its resolution might actually give Britain an edge.

We may not have an edge over the Americans who will always be remembered for helping to end China's isolation, or over the Japanese who signed a Treaty of Friendship with the Chinese in 1878, but we may now enjoy an advantage over the other Europeans. At least one British company has recently won a contract in China in spite of tendering a higher price than its rivals.

There are two further reasons for thinking that British business now has a unique opportunity to penetrate the Chinese market. The first is that the Chinese are becoming increasingly frustrated by the reluctance of the Japanese to transfer technology. The second is that the rise of the dollar has made American exports less competitive than ever before.

With Mr Zhao Ziyang due

to visit Britain later this year, there really is a "window of opportunity." How can British companies exploit it? As far as his capital projects are concerned, they are at the mercy of the government. The Chinese have at last discovered the advantages of soft credit and they made it perfectly clear to Lord Young and his delegation that unless Britain can match the terms being offered by other countries, her big engineering firms might as well not even bother tendering.

That still leaves plenty of scope, particularly in the

field of factory modernisation and replacement where, as one diplomat in Peking put it, what they want is the technology of 10 years ago, not that of today or tomorrow. It is important to stress, however, that the Chinese are after a production line service. Companies like Simon Engineering, which can provide it, have picked up a lot of business there, but that does not mean that smaller firms in association could not pull off deals. The West Germans have a consultancy which arranges suitable combinations to present to the Chinese.

But there is no British equivalent.

As for one-off purchases of individual bits of equipment, Chinese officials tend to make their choice from brochures — often sent out from Hong Kong — or through middle men based in Hong Kong. This is to avoid charges of bribery. Hong Kong's re-exports to China have been doubling annually in recent years to the point where Hong Kong now accounts for almost one quarter of all trade with China.

But, said a Hong Kong trade official, "British com-

panies have been slower than most in grasping the significance of Hong Kong's new role."

One of the clichés about China is that "she remembers her friends." If, as seems highly likely, China emerges in the next century as one of the world's great economic powers, her "friends" will be those firms which were seen to be helping her in this one — possibly even at some cost to themselves. Unless there is a rapid and dramatic change of heart in this country, it seems unlikely that many of them will be British.

A flicker of hope
on interest ratesINVESTMENT
Robin Stoddart

A BUDGET devoid of any sense of urgency was only to be expected from a hands-off government after the ending of the pit strike and when the pound was blasting back off the floor. Now its success or failure may be gauged by the extent of the fall in interest rates, over which, with luck, some control has been regained.

Bombing near the Strait of Hormuz, and a run on deposits in far Ohio, rather more than any figures the Chancellor could cook up, were responsible for the burst of strength in sterling and modest initial reduction in interest rates. As long as the oil price remains steady, the pound should continue to benefit from the realisation by those who move the billions around that the dollar is not a one-way ticket to affluence.

As long as exports go on rising at anywhere near the recent rate, which has been rather above the 7.5 per cent growth forecast for this year, there is every reason why the pound should strengthen. Several other countries will probably continue to do still better because their engineering industries have suffered less decimation, but the recovery in plant utilisation and investment means that the relative lack of success in limiting pay increases is not yet a serious handicap.

Although monetary forecasts, including the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, are so wildly inaccurate that they hardly seem worth publishing, there is no immediate risk of inflation taking off. Raw material prices are staying low and competition is stiffening all the time.

The inflow into the Treasury from North Sea oil is running so high, and the saving that will accrue as coal supplies recover is so great, that the borrowing requirement could, for once, veer below the £7 billion budget forecast. If that means a squeeze on domestic demand, it would also help the move to lower interest rates which is the only constructive step, apart from teenage job creation, that the government has taken.

Obsessed as it is with fiscal and monetary stance, the City was grudging in its reaction to the budget. The maintained £2 billion contingency reserve and the further attempt to brush the wider money supply statistics under the carpet were taken amiss by purists. For those more concerned about the real economy and employment there were some encouraging pointers, however, even if the Chancellor showed no sign of penitence or conversion on the road to Jericho.

Fears that Britain might soon be a land fit only for plutocrats were eased by the slight shift towards taxing those most able to pay. Since he could hardly reverse his much-trumpeted reform of corporation tax so soon, and since there is still a stimulus to early capital investment from last year's phasedown of the relevant rates, he turned to employers' national insurance contributions for his main source of extra revenue.

Such effrontery in milking those who can sometimes claim that they are already paying for the welfare state when they do not make use of its services, aroused some discontent. Dreams of complete freedom from capital

Clydesdale Bank PLC

BASE
RATEClydesdale
Bank PLC

announces
that with effect
from 21st March
1985 its Base
Rate for lending
is being reduced
from 14% to 13½
per annum

BICC
1984 profits up 10%
to £90 million

Sir William Barlow,
the Chairman, says:

"The increase in profits came from improvements in our UK, US and Australian operations but these were offset by a loss in Canada and lower profits from South Africa.

A final dividend of 7.04p per share is being recommended leaving the total dividend for the year unchanged.

	1984 £m	1983 £m
Turnover	2089	1902
Profit before interest	106	95
Net interest payable	16	13
Profit before taxation	90	82
Taxation	40	36
Profit after taxation	50	46
Minority interests	13	12
Attributable profit	37	34
	p	p
Earnings per share	19.2	17.8
Dividends per share	10.54	10.54

The above results exclude extraordinary charges of £12m (1983: £10m).

Copies of the preliminary profits statement are available from the Secretary, BICC plc, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QN.

The results are based on the full accounts of BICC Group for 1984 on which the auditors gave an unqualified report. These accounts have not yet been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Engineering tomorrow's world in
Cables, Components and Construction
for communications and power

BICC

The downward profit trend of the last two years has been arrested. The first steps have been taken towards establishing a more satisfactory level of earnings and several loss-making activities have been eliminated. Nevertheless, we recognise that the results achieved are still below what is needed.

We plan to become a more decentralised Group responding keenly to the markets in which we operate. Modern products and project management skills will be sold on a consistently profitable basis.

We are pursuing a vigorous action programme to deal with units which have been losing money or making inadequate profits. Central overhead costs are being cut as part of this policy of decentralisation.

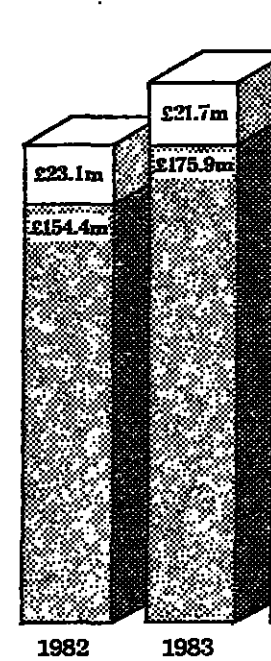
The importance of design in developing new products and improving established products is receiving high level attention. We continue our commitment to longer term research on new materials, processes and technology.

There is a determination to make BICC perform better and our people are working hard to produce results to bring greater benefit to shareholders, customers and employees alike."

Cornhill Insurance Group
1984 Results

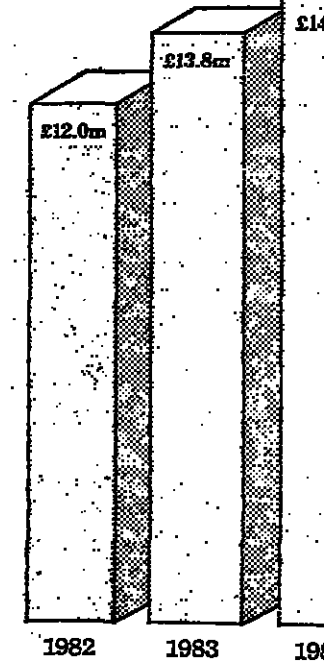
Premium Income

General Life



Profit before taxation

General Life



Premium Income

General Business Life Business

£m £m

200.5 175.9

23.7 21.7

224.2 197.6

Profits

Underwriting result

Investment income attributable to general insurance funds

General insurance profit

Shareholders' investment and other income

General business profit

Life business profit

Share of associated company result

(14.3) (10.1)

19.8 16.4

5.5 6.3

7.3 6.5

12.8 12.8

1.4 1.1

(0.1) (0.1)

14.1 13.8

Copies of the Report & Accounts may be obtained shortly from the Secretary at 32 Cornhill, London EC3V 3LL.



**Cornhill
Insurance Group**

A member of the BTR Group of companies

سكنا من الارض

Channel 4

2 15 pm Racing from Doncaster. 4
Countdown.

5 0 AMERICANS AT WAR
Divide and Conquer. The season
continues with another of Frank
Capra's propaganda documentar-
ies from the Why We Fight
series, on the German Occupation
of Europe. It's followed (6 5)
John Huston's 1943 documentary
Report from the Aleutians on the
lives of the troops at a remote out-
post of the war.

7 0 CHANNEL FOUR NEWS. 7:15
Comment. By Kate Ashbrook
Director of Open Spaces, speaking
on an environmental issue
Weather.

8 0 DISCOVERY. More news of what
new in science and engineering
from David Bellamy and Miranda

8 30 **MIRROR IMAGE.** Tears for Fears' *My Mind's Eye*. Duo Curt and Roland are the first subject of the new series featuring bands varying degrees of renown.

9 30 **NAGGING DOUBT.** Jack Klaff angry, moving one-man drama evoking the social and political

background to South Africa's Sharpeville massacre of 1960 was much praised at the 1981 Edinburgh Festival. This TV version of Klaff's remarkable performance — he plays 17 characters without props or costume change — is directed by Roger Graef, and is showing to mark the 25th anniversary

10 30 **DESIGN MATTERS: Can You See What We Do?** Last programme of the trio on identity and image looks at corporate identity.

11 0 **JUST LIKE MOHICANS**, by Tru Worrell. Channel Four's Debut competition, launched last summer, invited TV scripts from ne

writers from the black and Asian communities — and this drama about a conflict of loyalties is the winning play. Set on Bonfire Night, it follows three streetwise, cynical youths as they break into a house. One of them is black — and is the householder.

11 45 **DADARAMA.** Another experimen-

54C: 1 0 pm Countdown. 1 30 Abbott and Costello. 2 0 Beth, Sut, Pam, Fryd a Bl. 2 20 Ffalabalam. 2 35 Hwnt ac Yma. 2 40 Racing from Doncaster. 4 20 A Plus 4 40 Ffalabalam. 5 0 Deri Deg 5 10 Gwaed ar Dagrau. 5 35 Bewitched. 6 0 Brookside.

30 Be Neesa? 7 0 Newyddion Saith. 7 0	11 20 The Yellow
30 Corridor Afon. 8 5 Colog. 8 35 Awyr Iac.	12 20 Rose.
30 5 Fragile Earth. 10 5 World Cinem	12 20 Hard Words for
Another Way (1982). 12 0 Diwedd.	Today, close.
30 Gardens for All.	
6 Benson.	
40 As London.	
40 The Yellow	

35 Places Apart.
40 Postscript:
weather; close.

Yorkshire

6 15 As London.
12 30 Calendar Picture Show.
1 0 News.
1 20 Calendar News.
1 30 The Love Boat.
2 30 As London.
5 15 Sounds Good.
5 45 News.

39 The Champions.	6 0 Calendar.
30 As London.	6 35 Crossroads.
15 Dreams.	7 0 Emmerdale
45 News.	Farm.
2 Crossroads.	7 30 As London.
25 Northern Life.	10 40 Live at City
0 Emmerdale	Hall.
Farm.	11 10 Barney Miller.
30 As London.	11 40 Fight Night.
43 The Works.	12 35 Close.

11 48 History references to the Armada evoked in prose and poetry.

the cost of the system built during the sixties.

12 27 Just a Minute. Slick-talk panel game.

1 0 The World at One: News.

1 40 The Archers.

2 0 News: Woman's Hour celebrates the first national schools poetry festival.

3 0 News: Afternoon Play: After the Funeral. First of two plays by Alan Owen. Brothers at their mother's funeral differ over what to do with Grandad.

4 0 News: Enquire Within. *Glacier bicentenary*

4 10 Bookshelf: Philip Ziegler, *King-
maker of Mountbatten.*
4 40 Story Time: Jennings in Particu-
lar by Anthony Buckeridge (3).
5 0 PM: News Magazine.
6 0 The Six O'clock News.
6 30 Brain of Britain 1985.
7 0 News: The Archers.
7 20 Any Answers?
8 40 International Assignment.
9 10 Hi-Tech. New magazine on the

8 latest gadgetry.
 8 Profile.
 9 Does He Take Sugar? Magazine for the disabled.
 9 John Eddon in the BBC Archives.
 9 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine.
 10 15 A Book at Bedtime: The Rich Mrs Robinson by Winifred Beechey (4).
 10 38 The World Tonight.

11 15 The Financial world tonight.
11 30 Today in Parliament.
12 0 News; Weather; Shipping.
VHF: 9 5-10 45; 11 0-12 0 Schools. 1 55
pm Listening Corner. 2 5-3 0 Schools.
11 0 Study on 4. 11 30-12 0 Open U.E.
University. 12 30-1 10 am Schools Night-
Time Broadcasting.
Wales (240m): 4 0 am Am Radio 2. 6 25
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1. **Roberto** 12 30 am
 2. **Lauren Staffer** 12 30 am
 3. **Catchphrase** 1.
 4. **Frank Hennessy** 3 30
 5. **Painting the Clouds** 4 00
 6. **Four-Five** 4 30
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World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648kHz (463m) at the following times GMT:

5.0 am.	Newsdesk.	7.0	News.	7.30	Twenty-four Hours.
11.0	News.	11.30	Short news.	12.0	Reflections.
1.0	News.	1.30	News.	1.59	Reflections.
2.0	News.	2.30	News.	2.59	Reflections.
3.0	News.	3.30	News.	3.59	Reflections.
4.0	News.	4.30	News.	4.59	Reflections.
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12.0	News.	12.30	News.	12.59	Reflections.
1.0	News.	1.30	News.	1.59	Reflections.
2.0	News.	2.30	News.	2.59	Reflections.
3.0	News.	3.30	News.	3.59	Reflections.
4.0	News.	4.30	News.	4.59	Reflections.
5.0	News.	5.30	News.	5.59	Reflections.
6.0	News.	6.30	News.	6.59	Reflections.
7.0	News.	7.30	News.	7.59	

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News. 5 0 Meridian. 5 40 The Week In Wales. 8 0 News. 9 15 A Jolly Good Day. 9 30 The Week In Wales. 10 0 Today. 10 25 The Week In Wales. 10 35 Financial News. 10 40 Reflections. 10 45 Sports Roundup. 11 0 News. 11 5 Comments. 12 0 News. 12 15 The Week In Wales. 12 30 News. 12 35 Meridian. 12 0 News. 12 9 am News About Britain. 12 15 Radio Newsweek. 12 30 Mainstream. 1 0 News. Outlook. 1 35 At Home With The Stars. 1 40 News. 1 50 In The Heart Of The Country. 2 0 News. 2 5 Press Review. 2 15 Signs Of Old Age. 2 30 The Elements of Music. 2 5 News. 3 0 News.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 4—1,500m (200kHz),
London only 417m (720kHz), VHF: Radio 3—
1647m (1,816kHz), VHF: Radio 2—433m
(683kHz), 330m (900kHz), VHF: Radio 1—
293m (1,053kHz), 273m (1,089kHz).

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UN A Feris.
ODEON MARBLE ARCH (723 2011)
PAYLOVA (U), Sep. progr. Doors open
2.5.50.20 Reduced prices

PHOENIX. East Fingher. 883 2233.
Anti-Racist Film Programme. Today
and Tomorrow at 8.30 and 7.30
and 6.30.
PARIMATAMA at 2.30, 8.30 and 7.30.
SCREEN AT THE ELECTRIC. 239 5694.
ONE WEEK ONLY. ENDS THURS.
8.30, 7.30 and 6.30.
BEST DIRECTOR PARIS TRAVE (15).
2.30, 8.30, 8.30. Met all £2. From Fri
to Sat. RIVERSIDE.
SCREEN ON BAKER STREET. 935
2772.
1. (1) Oscar Nominations - Including
Best Film. 4. **GOLDIE'S STORY** (15).
2.25, 4.30, 7.0, 9.0.

TIME	7.10	7.15	7.20	7.25	7.30	7.35	7.40	7.45	7.50	7.55	8.00	8.05	8.10	8.15	8.20	8.25	8.30	8.35	8.40	8.45	8.50	8.55	9.00	9.05	9.10	9.15	9.20	9.25	9.30	9.35	9.40	9.45	9.50	9.55	10.00	10.05	10.10	10.15	10.20	10.25	10.30	10.35	10.40	10.45	10.50	10.55	11.00	11.05	11.10	11.15	11.20	11.25	11.30	11.35	11.40	11.45	11.50	11.55	12.00	12.05	12.10	12.15	12.20	12.25	12.30	12.35	12.40	12.45	12.50	12.55	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	2.00	2.05	2.10	2.15	2.20	2.25	2.30	2.35	2.40	2.45	2.50	2.55	3.00	3.05	3.10	3.15	3.20	3.25	3.30	3.35	3.40	3.45	3.50	3.55	4.00	4.05	4.10	4.15	4.20	4.25	4.30	4.35	4.40	4.45	4.50	4.55	5.00	5.05	5.10	5.15	5.20	5.25	5.30	5.35	5.40	5.45	5.50	5.55	6.00	6.05	6.10	6.15	6.20	6.25	6.30	6.35	6.40	6.45	6.50	6.55	7.00	7.05	7.10	7.15	7.20	7.25	7.30	7.35	7.40	7.45	7.50	7.55	8.00	8.05	8.10	8.15	8.20	8.25	8.30	8.35	8.40	8.45	8.50	8.55	9.00	9.05	9.10	9.15	9.20	9.25	9.30	9.35	9.40	9.45	9.50	9.55	10.00	10.05	10.10	10.15	10.20	10.25	10.30	10.35	10.40	10.45	10.50	10.55	11.00	11.05	11.10	11.15	11.20	11.25	11.30	11.35	11.40	11.45	11.50	11.55	12.00	12.05	12.10	12.15	12.20	12.25	12.30	12.35	12.40	12.45	12.50	12.55	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	2.00	2.05	2.10	2.15	2.20	2.25	2.30	2.35	2.40	2.45	2.50	2.55	3.00	3.05	3.10	3.15	3.20	3.25	3.30	3.35	3.40	3.45	3.50	3.55	4.00	4.05	4.10	4.15	4.20	4.25	4.30	4.35	4.40	4.45	4.50	4.55	5.00	5.05	5.10	5.15	5.20	5.25	5.30	5.35	5.40	5.45	5.50	5.55	6.00	6.05	6.10	6.15	6.20	6.25	6.30	6.35	6.40	6.45	6.50	6.55	7.00	7.05	7.10	7.15	7.20	7.25	7.30	7.35	7.40	7.45	7.50	7.55	8.00	8.05	8.10	8.15	8.20	8.25	8.30	8.35	8.40	8.45	8.50	8.55	9.00	9.05	9.10	9.15	9.20	9.25	9.30	9.35	9.40	9.45	9.50	9.55	10.00	10.05	10.10	10.15	10.20	10.25	10.30	10.35	10.40	10.45	10.50	10.55	11.00	11.05	11.10	11.15	11.20	11.25	11.30	11.35	11.40	11.45	11.50	11.55	12.00	12.05	12.10	12.15	12.20	12.25	12.30	12.35	12.40	12.45	12.50	12.55	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	2.00	2.05	2.10	2.15	2.20	2.25	2.30	2.35	2.40	2.45	2.50	2.55	3.00	3.05	3.10	3.15	3.20	3.25	3.30	3.35	3.40	3.45	3.50	3.55	4.00	4.05	4.10	
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WORKSHOPS
Mar. 21, 7.30 pm
TOWARDS A THEATRE OF SOUND
CONCERT
Mar. 25 & 26, 7.30 pm PERUVIAN
MARCUS TOROCHERO and his group
Mar. 21 & 22, 7.30 pm SPANISH
Paco Peña and (C)A

[illegible]

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